

Apocalyptical MYSTERIES,

Touching the *Two* WITNESSES, the
Seven VIALS, and the *Two* KING-
DOMS, *to wit*, of CHRIST, and
of ANTICHRIST,
EXPOUNDED.

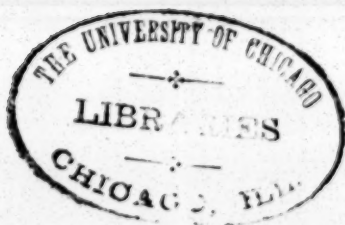
Wherein is contained some things ne-
cessary for the Saints in this present
GENERATION to know. And
therein is also shewed, what the I s-
RAEL of God ought to do in this
DAY.

Knollys, Hansard
By H. K. a Servant of Jesus Christ.

Re. 16. 20, 21. Come my people, enter thou into thy
Chamber, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thy
self as it were for a little moment, until the indig-
nation be overpast. For behold, the Lord cometh out
of his place to punish the Inhabitants of the earth
for their iniquity: The earth also shall disclose
blood, and shall no more cover her stain.

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To all the Saints, that
in every place call up-
on the Name of the
LORD Jesus Christ.

My Brethren,

They that would serve God in
their Generation, according to
his Will, ought to inquire dili-
gently into the particular Truths
of the Age they live in, which are Re-
corded in his Holy WORD. The
dayes wherein we live, being not onely
the latter Times of the first Apostasie,
propheſied of by the Apoſtle, 1 Tim. 4.
1, 2, 3. but the laſt dayes of thoſe peri-
lous Times mentioned by him, 2 Tim. 3.
1, 5. I conceive, that the laſt part of
God's revealed Will, to wit, the Book
of the Revelation, hath in it thoſe
A 2 Truths,

To the Reader.

Truths, which more peculiarly belonged unto this Age wherein we live ; which consideration hath made me willing (as my occasions and daily Imployment would permit) to be searching them out. And though I cannot say that I have in all things found the Truth, which principally, and above others, may be called the Truth of this Age, and of our Generation ; Yet being encouraged by that Blessing, promised Rev. 1. 3. I have crowded my self into the number of those that run to and fro to find it : And have by searching the Prophecies of this Book of the Revelation, found three Mysteries, wherein are some things that seem to relate unto this Age and Generation wherein we live, viz. That of the two Witnesses, of the seven Vials, and of the two Kingdoms, to wit, of Christ, and of Antichrist. Which I have made the Subject of this little Treatise, in the reading whereof, I doubt not but you will find some Truths that are necessary

To the Reader.

cessary for the Saints in this Age and present Generation to know, and also some duties which the ISRAEL of God ought to do in this DAY and Age wherein we live.

Dear Brethren, How ever others may censure me for presumption, in offering my Opinion in those things, that are in their judgment too high and deep Mysteries for me to meddle with; Yet you that are Saints, know how to bear those infirmities and weaknesses of your unworthy Brother, which happily you may discern in reading this Treatise; And notwithstanding them all, may receive any glimmerings of light that is held forth to you in the Exposition of these Prophecies; that so you and I, who have our Fathers Name written in our Foreheads, may go hand in hand (like loving Brethren) about our Fathers WORK, following our LORD the Lamb where-soever he goes. The Divisions, Contentions, and Separations that to this

To the Reader.

Day remains among the Professors of this Age, causeth me to think, That God hath not done all his *WORK* upon Mount Sion; There are some sufferings yet behind, which will purge away that dross, by the Spirit of Judgment, and by the Spirit of Burning: And this is one Reason among others, which makes me think, the two Witnesses are not yet slain; And though many of Gods Servants have suffered for the Testimony which they held, yet there remains a Remnant of their fellow Servants and Brethren which shall be killed as they were, and this must be fulfilled: For, as there was such a Dispensation under the seven Seals, Rev. 6. 9, 10, 11. before God would avenge their Blood; so there shall be such a Dispensation under the seven Trumpets, before the seven Vials of Gods last Plagues be poured out, Rev. 11. 7, 18. And when I consider the Congregations of Saints, & Churches of several persuasions, in this Age,

To the Reader.

how unlike they are to the Churches of God recorded in the Scripture, with respect unto Ministry, Gifts, and Discipline or Government, besides what is amiss in the Worship of God ; It makes me think, That the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony in Heaven is not opened, out of which Temple John saw the seven Angels come, who had the seven golden Vials of the seven last Plagues of God, Rev. 15. 1, 5, 6. And if so, then the seven Vials are not yet any of them poured out upon Mystical Babylon ; for those seven golden Vials were given them after they were come out of the Temple, Rev. 15. 5, 6, 7. and they had not a command to pour out any of the seven Vials till after that, Rev. 16. 1, 2, 3.

Lastly, The late Apostacy of some, who have fallen in with the corrupt self-seeking interests of this sinful and superstitious Generation ; and the Zeal of others, who have separated themselves from their Brethren, judging them to be

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defiled

To the Reader.

defiled with the sins of the times, and therefore dare not have and hold Communion with them, though they hope they are Saints, and the dear Children of God, hath given me occasion to publish my Testimony at this time for the Kingdom of Christ, and against the Kingdom of Antichrist, wherein I have said some things that may, by the blessing of God, tend unto the recovery of some backsliders, and to the rectifying of the Judgments of my zealous Brethren, and to the reducing of those Saints unto repentance, who have been defiled with any sins of this Age or Generation, not of wilfulness, but through weakness, and that either for want of light, or through the strength of some temptation; who being overtaken with a fault, should be restored in the spirit of meekness, Gal. 6. 1, 2.

Which blessings if God shall please to effect, by these my poor endeavours, and labour of love, as I know he will not forget it, so I pray for you, and beg your prayers for me, that neither I nor you may forget to give him the glory.

This done, I remain your Brother

in the best Bonds,

H. K.

Apo-

Apocalyptical MYSTERIES,

The First Part,

Touching the two WITNESSES.

Rev. 11. 3, 14. *And I will give power unto my two Witnesfes, and they fhall prophesie a thousand two hundred and threescore days cloathed in sack-cloth. The second Wo is past, and behold, the third Wo cometh quickly.*

IT is not my intent to expound every verse, and interpret each particular thing therein contained, but to offer my Opinion briefly touching some things which I conceive are of more general concernment,

ment, and may be of more *special* use unto the Saints at this DAY.

The Particulars which I have thought most necessary to treat of touching this Subject, are principally these.

1. *Who are the two Witnesses, and what is their Testimony?*

2. *What is their Power, and the time of their Propheying?*

3. *Who the Beast is, and how he kills them?*

4. *What is the street of the great City, in which their dead bodies lie?*

5. *What Time is to be understood by the three dayes and an half?*

6. *How they shall be raised again, and what are the Effects thereof?*

As touching the first, viz. *Who are the two Witnesses, and what is their Testimony?*

The two *Witnesses*, vers. 3. are described *Metaphorically* by two Olive Trees, and two Candlesticks, vers. 4.

These are the two Olive Trees, and the two Candlesticks standing before the God of the Earth.

By which Description it appears, that the two Witnesses are not any two individual Persons, as *Moses* and *Elias*, nor is thereby meant any two particular Testimonies, as
the

the Old and New Testament, or two distinct Callings, as *Magistracy and Ministry*; for none of these Interpretations will agree with this Description of the two Witnesses, as will plainly appear in the Exposition of this fourth verse.

By the *two Olive Trees* are mystically signified the Lords Ministers and Prophets, who are here called *Sons of Oyl*, which is an *Hebraism*, and a *Metaphorical* Expression borrowed from *Zech. 4. 11, 14.* These are the two Anointed Ones that stand by the LORD of the whole Earth. Such were the Priests and Prophets of the LORD, who were Anointed, *Exod. 28. 41.* & *1 Kings 19. 16.* Yea, and all the Saints who are a Royal Priesthood, *1 Pet. 2. 9.* have an *unction* from the Holy One, *1 John 2. 20, 27.* but especially the Lord's Ministers and Prophets, who being anointed with the Spirit above their fellow-Brethren the Saints, do empty the golden Oyl out of themselves into the seven Lamps of the golden Candlesticks.

By the *two Candlesticks*, are figured forth the visible true constituted Churches of Jesus Christ, as plainly appears by his own interpretation, *Chap. 1. 20.* And the seven Candlesticks are the seven Churches. As

one Candlestick in the Prophets Vision mystically signified that *National Church* of God, which was but One, *Zach. 4. 2.* So two Candlesticks in the Apostles Vision Metaphorically representeth those *Congregational Churches* of Jesus Christ, which are many.

Nor is my distinguishing between the Lords Ministers, and Prophets, and his Churches unwarrantable ; for they are distinguished in other Scriptures, *Acts 15. 4. 22, 23.* *The Apostles and Elders with the whole Church,* *Acts 20. 17, 18.* also *Phil. 1. 1.* *1 Pet. 5. 1, 2.* and *1 Cor. 12. 28.* And God hath set some in the Church, first Apostles, secondarily Prophets, thirdly Teachers.

The Testimony which these two Witnesses bear, whilst they prophesie in Sackcloth, is not that general Testimony which the Ministers and Churches of God in all Ages of the Gospel have born against Sin, Satan, and the World of ungodly men ; though that may turn unto them for a Testimony, but it is a Generation Confession of those Truths which do properly belong unto that Age wherein they live, and unto which they are called, as was John the Baptist, *John 1. 19, 20, 23.* the Apostles, *Acts 1. 8. & 4. 18, 19, 20.*

Paul

Paul, Acts 13. 5. and 23. 11. Timothy, 1 Tim. 6. 12. And the Martyrs of Jesus Christ, Rev. 6. 9. in their DAY.

So that this *Testimony* is that *confession* of Truth, which the Churches of God, and the Ministers and Prophets of the Lord have made, and the Witnesse, which they have born in their *own* Generation for Christ, his Magistracy, Ministry, Churches, Ordinances, Worship, and Government, or Discipline, &c. and against Antichrist, or the Beast, his Magistracy, Ministry, Churches, Ordinances, Worship, and Government, or Discipline, &c.

Hereby the Saints in this present Generation, may understand three things, which are necessary for them to know, and to do, viz.

1. The Churches, Ministers, and Prophets of the LORD are to bear their Testimony, not onely against the Power, Throne, and great Authority which the Dragon (*who is the Devil*, Chap. 20. 2.) gave unto the Beast, Chap. 13. 2. but also against all the Kings of the Earth, who have received their power at the same time with the Beast, and give their power and strength unto the Beast, Chap. 17. 12, 13. to wit, those ten Kings of the fourth Monarchy, who

who received a *Political* and *Ecclesiastical* Power one hour (*or at the same time*) with the Beast, and have given their *moral* power and *natural* strength unto the Beast; and principally against the *Politick* and *Ecclesiastick* power of the *eighth* Beast, who is also one of the *seven* Kings who goeth into perdition.

2. The Churches, Ministers, and Prophets of the LORD, are to bear their Testimony, not only against the most gross *Idolaters* of the great *VVHORE*, *Mystery Babylon*, and her *Sorcerers*, but also against the superstitious *Abominations* of all other Harlots, *to wit*, false Churches, and false *VVorshippers*, who are her Daughters, *Chap.* 17. 5. Yea, though they be *well-favoured* Harlots, *Nahum* 3. 4. called the *Cities of the Nations*, (*that is to say*, *National Churches*) who shall fall in the utter destruction of *great Babylon*, when she comes in remembrance before God, *Chap.* 16. 19.

3. The Churches, Ministers, and Prophets of the LORD, are to bear their Testimony unto the Kingdom of Jesus Christ here on Earth, not onely as he is King of *Saints*, *Chap.* 15. 3. and King of *Zion*, *Psal.* 149. 1, 2. but also as he is King of *Nations*,

Nations, Jer. 10. 7. For this confession of the Kingdom of our LORD Jesus Christ, is properly the Truth of this present Age and Generation; the glad tydings whereof, is to be preached in all the WORLD for a Witness unto all Nations, and then shall the END of the WORLD come, Mat. 24. 14. And I may say in the Apostles words, 1 Cor. 10. 11. This is written for our Admonition, upon whom the Ends of the VWorld are come.

As touching the second, viz. VVhat is the Power of these two VVitneses, and the time of their Prophefying?

The Power, which the Lord hath given unto his two VVitneses, is not a Magisterial Authority or Dominion, but a Prophetical Power, to wit, the Power of the VWORD, not the Power of the Sword; which is another Reason, why I cannot be of their Opinion, who say, That these two VVitneses, are the Magistracy and Ministry of Christ.

This Prophetical Power, is declared by several Acts, (such as were done by the Prophets of the LORD of old) vers. 5, 6. to wit, first Power over Fire, as Eliah had, 2 Kings 1. 10. and Jer. 5. 14. Behold I will make my words in thy mouth Fire.

Secondly

Secondly, Power over VVaters, both the VVaters that are above the Firmament, verse 6. These have power to shut Heaven, that it rain not in the dayes of their Prophecie. And such a propheticall Power Elijah or Eliat had, 1 Kings 17. 1. There shall be no dew nor rain, but according to my VVord; which the Prophet effected by earnest prayer, Jam. 5. 17. And also over the VVaters which are under the Firmament, to turn them into Blood, verse 6. As Moses the LORD'S Prophet did, Exod. 7. 19, 20, 21.

Thirdly, Power to smite the Earth with all Plagues; which Plagues are to be understood Metaphorically of Spiritual Judgments: For although the Propheticall Power of Moses and Elijah, and other Prophets, brought material Plagues, and temporal Judgments upon Egypt, and other Countries, & upon the Inhabitants of the world, yet the Plagues and Judgments here mystically described are, if not onely, yet principally of a Spiritual kind, such as the Lords Prophets of old also had Power to do, Isa. 6. 9, 10. and Mat. 13. 13, 14, 15.

The Time of their Propheying is 1260, dayes, verse 3. The same number of 1260, the WOMAN (that is to say, the Church of God) is fed in the Wilderness, chap. 12. 6.

to wit, by those Ministers and Prophets, who are the Witnesses of Christ, as afore-said. Which 1260. dayes, counting 30. dayes for a month, make *forty two* months, which is the time that the holy City (*viz.* the *Church* of God) shall be troden underfoot by the *Gentiles*, vers. 2. *that is to say*, by the Papists and Popish Idolaters, who for their Spiritual Idolatry in the Worship of God, are called *Gentiles*, as the great City, Mystical Babylon, Spiritually is called *Sodom* and *Egypt*, vers. 8. And the number of forty two months is the time that was given unto the Beast (*viz.* Antichrist, that Man of Sin, and Son of Perdition, to wit, the Antichristian Politick and Ecclesiastick Power and Dominion) to continue, and to prevail, Chap. 13. 5, 7. Hereby it doth plainly appear, that as the *time* of the *Gentiles* who tread the holy City underfoot, chap. 11. 2. and the *time* of the *Beast*, that doth make war with the *Saints*, and *Witnesses* of the LORD, and overcome them, and kill them, chap. 13. 5, 7. & 11. 7. are one and the same time of forty two months; so the *time* of the *WOMAN*, who is fed in the *Wilderness*, chap. 12. 6. and the time of the two *Witnesses* prophesying in *Sackcloth*, chap. 11. 3. are one and the same *time* of 1260.

dayes. And it hereby also appears that all these four are contemporary, all beginning and ending together; and besides that which is noted touching these four, and their time in the Scripture of Truth, both the Antiquity of Ecclesiastical History, and the late Expositors of this Book of the Revelation, do give a Testimony unto the same, affirming, that when the Beast began to exercise his Tyrannical Power, and Antichristian Dominion over the Saints, then the Holy City began to be trodden under foot, then the Woman fled into the Wilderness, and then the two Witnesses began to Prophecie in Sackcloth.

Which time of the exercise of the Beasts Antichristian Politick and Ecclesiastick Power coercively was (say they) about the Year of our Lord, 407, 409, 410. or thereabouts. "As may be seen in Symsons History of the Church, lib. 4. Socrat. Hist. Eccles. cap. 3. Helvius in Concil. Taurinatenf. cap. 7. The Councel of Toledo in Spain, Anno Dom. 400. as saith Helvius. Magdeb. Cent. 5. cap. 10.

It is not my work at present to determine either the beginning or ending of this time but onely to give the Interpretation of these 1260 dayes, which contain the

time of the *Witnesses* prophesying in *Sack-cloath*.

The 1260. dayes are not to be understood *litterally* of so many *natural* dayes, for that is but three years and an half, which is intended by the *three dayes and an half*, vers. 9. when the dead bodies of the slain *Witnesses* lie unburied, called a *Time*, and *Times*, and half a *Time*, chap. 12. 14. and *Dan.* 7. 21, 25.

But we must understand those 1260. dayes *prophetically*, that is to say, *each day for a year*, according unto those Scriptures, *Numb.* 14. 34. and *Ezek.* 4. 5, 6.

So that, *The whole time of the two Witnesses prophesying in Sackcloath, is 1260. years.* So long the *holy City* is to be trodden under foot; so long the *Woman* is to be in the *Wildernefs*; and so long the *Beast's* Power is to continue; for the times of all these four do begin and end together, and are but one time, to wit, 1260. years.

As touching the third Particular, viz. *Who the Beast is, and how he kills the Witnesses.*

The great Monarchs and Monarchies of this *WORLD*, have been figured forth by *wild Beasts*; God shewed his Prophet *Daniel* the *four Kingdoms* by a Vision of *four Beasts*, *Dan.* 7. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. *The first like*

a Lyon, the second like to a Bear, the third like a Leopard; the fourth Beast, to wit, the Roman Kingdom, was so dreadful, that he had no Name, so monstrous, that he had no resemblance unto any one Beast, but is described by such things as doth manifest him to be a Monster, to wit, partly a Man by his two Iron Legs, by his Feet, and ten Toes, part of Iron, and part of Clay, Dan. 2. 33. which is expounded of the fourth Kingdom, vers. 40, 41, 42, 43. and partly a Beast, by his great Iron teeth, by his ten Horns, and a little Horn that came up among them, Dan. 7. 7, 8. which is also expounded of the fourth Monarchy, verse 24, 25, or Roman Kingdom.

And our LORD Jesus Christ gave the like Description of the fourth Monarchy, or Roman Kingdom, unto his Servant John under the similitude of a Beast, namely, a great red Dragon, Revel. 12. 3. Which Beast was terrible and monstrous, (as that which Daniel saw) all spotted like a Leopard, his feet like a Bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a Lyon, chap. 13. 3. with seven Heads and ten Horns, chap. 17. 3. ascending out of the bottomless Pit, and goeth in to Perdition, v. 8. And this is the Beast which shall kill the Witnesses, chap. 11. 7.

The *Beast* in this Propheſie is ſometimes mentioned alone, without any diſtinction, and then we are thereby to underſtand the whole complex Body of the Roman Antichriſtian Politick & Eccleſiaſtick State and Government, as *chap. 14. 9, 11.* And in other places of this Book the *Beast* is mentioned with ſome other, *as if he were two,* as the *Beast* that roſe out of the Sea, and the *Beast* that roſe out of the Earth, *chap. 13. 1, 11.* *Beast* and Woman, *chap. 17. 3.* the *Beast* and the falſe Prophet, *chap. 19. 20.* And thereby we are to underſtand a two-fold Power mixed and exerciſed together, that is to ſay, by the *Beast* is meant the Political, and by the Woman, the Eccleſiaſtical Power of the Roman Government.

So then by the *Beast*, *that kills the VVitneſſes*, verſ. 7. we are to underſtand the Roman-Antichriſtian-Politick-and-Eccleſiaſtick-State and Government exerciſed *perſonally* over mens Conſciences in any place or Caſe whatſoever.

This *Beast*, *that ſhall kill the two VVitneſſes*, is more diſtinctly (*though more Myſtically*) deſcribed, *Rev. 17. 8, 11.* by three particular things. *First*, By his paſt, preſent, and future State; The *Beast* that

WAS, and IS NOT, and yet IS. *Secondly*, By his twofold number ; even he is the EIGHT, and is of the SEVEN. *Thirdly*, By his RISE and RUINE ; He shall ascend out of the bottomless PIT, and go into PERDITION,

The *Beast* that WAS, *Chap. 17. 11.* *that is to say*, the *fourth* Monarchy, or *Roman* Kingdom, and the *Political* Government thereof WAS a Kingdom which God set up and a Power which God ordained, *Dan. 2. 40. 7. 7, 23. and Rom. 13. 1, 7.*

The *Beast* that WAS, and IS NOT, *that is to say*, the *fourth* Monarchy, or *Roman* Kingdom in its *mixt* State of *Politick*-and-*Ecclesiastick* Government, *coercively* exercised over the *Consciences* of men in any *Place* or *Case* whatsoever, IS NOT God's ORDINANCE ; For the *Dragon* (which is the *Devil*, *Chap. 20. 2.*) gave this *Beast* his Power, and his Seat, and great Authority, *chap. 13. 2.*

The *Beast* that WAS, and IS NOT, and yet is, *chap. 17. 8.* *that is to say*, the *fourth* Monarchy, or *Roman* Kingdom, which was a Power ordained of God, with respect unto its *meer* *Political* Government, but IS NOT God's Ordinance in its *mixt* State of *Politick*-and-*Ecclesiastick* Power and Government.

vernment; Yet **IS** a *Power*, and hath a *Throne*, chap. 13. 2. Yea, and exerciseth great *Authority* over the Bodies and Consciences of Men *coercively*; and causeth both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive his *Mark* in their right hand, or in their foreheads; and causeth that as many as would not worship the *Image* of the *Beast*, should be killed, chap. 13. 15, 16, 17.

And the *Beast* that **WAS** and **IS NOT**, even he **IS** the *EIGHTH*, chap. 17. 11. *that is to say*, the eighth *Head* of the *Beast*, and **IS** of the *SEVEN*, which *Mystery* of Iniquity, that we may with more clearness understand; the Angel told *John*, that the *Beast* that carrieth the *Woman*, had seven *Heads*, chap. 17. 7. which he saith are seven *Kings*, *verse* 10. *that is to say*, seven kinds of *political* Governours, and forms of Government in the fourth Kingdom, whereof *FIVE* are fallen, or were past and gone before *John's* time, namely, 1. *Kings*, 2. *Consuls*, 3. *Decim-vers*, 4. *Tribunes*, and 5. *Dictators*: *ONE* is, to wit, *Emperors*, who being the *sixth* head of the *Beast*, ruled and exercised their *Dominion* over the whole *Roman* Kingdom in the dayes of our Saviour and his Apostles; the *OTHER* is

not yet come, to wit, the *seventh* Head of the *Beast*, that is to say, the seventh King, or kind of Government was not yet in being, when *John* writ this book of the Revelation; which *seventh* Head is Popes, for they succeeded the *Emperors* in the Kingdom and Government of the Roman Empire (as all *Historians* testifie) and have ruled and reigned as Kings.

And this Beast is the *EIGHTH*, viz. the *eighth* Head, with respect of his Ecclesiastical Power, mixed with his Political Authority; And is of the *SEVEN*, that is to say, he is one of the seven, to wit, the seventh Head or King, with respect of his Political-Power-and-Authority. And this mixed Politick-and-Ecclesiastick Power, is signified by his two Horns, chap. 13. 11, 12.

And shall ascend out of the bottomless PIT, chap. 17. 8. & chap. 11. 7. The Beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless Pit, viz. the Hellish Apostacy of the latter times, foretold by the Apostle Paul, 1 Tim. 4. 1, 2, 3, which is contemporary with the opening of the bottomless Pit, chap. 9. 1. So is the falling away (or Apostacy) with the revealing of the man of Sin, this son of Perdition, 2 Thes. 2. 3. this King is the Ange

of the bottomless Pit, chapter 9. 11.

And go into Perdition, chap. 17. 8. and verse 11. *goeth into PERDITION.*

The man of Sin, *Antichrist*, is called the SON of PERDITION, 2 *Thes.* 2. 3. and it is *twice* affirmed, chap. 17. 8, 11. that he goeth and shall go into PERDITION, because the thing is certain : And the meaning is, that the BEAST of the eighth Head, *that is to say*, the Roman-Antichristian-Pollitick - and - Ecclesiastick-Power, Dominion, and Government, together with the Antichristian-POWERS, Potentates, Kings, and Governours, who exercise that *Antichristian*-power and dominion *coercive*-ly over the Bodies, Estates, and Consciences of men, shall be utterly destroyed ; which utter Destruction and PERDITION will be fully effected and compleated by pouring out of the seven VIALS of the last Plagues, *for in them is filled up the wrath of God*, chap. 15. 1. & 16. 1, 10, 19. & 18. 2, 8. & 19. 19, 20, 21. & 14. 9, 10, 11, 12. And the third Angel followed them, saying with a loud Voice, If any man shall worship the BEAST and his IMAGE, and receive his MARK in his Forehead, or in his Hand ; the same shall drink of the Wine of the WRATH of God, which is poured out with-

out MIXTURE, into the CUP of his Indignation.

If it be enquired how the BEAST doth kill the Witnesses? *Answer,*

The BEAST shall 1. make WAR against them; 2. He shall OVERCOME them; and 3. He shall KILL them, *vers. 7.*

The Beast cannot overcome them as Witnesses, (for so they Overcome him, and the Dragon also, *chap. 12. 11. And they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their Testimony*) but as Warriors, *chap. 13. 7. And it was given to him to make War with the Saints, and to overcome them.* This WAR is a more open and visible Opposition between the Witnesses & the BEAST, then formerly, though the two Witnesses had opposed the Beast, and born their Testimony against his mixt Antichristian Power, and Idolatrous Worship, from the beginning of the 1260. dayes of their Sackcloth-condition, which they did more privately; And though the Beast had persecuted the two Witnesses for the Testimony which they bare against him, from the beginning of the 42. months of his Power; Yet now at last, and toward the end of their 1260. dayes, the two Witnesses bear a more manifest Testimony, and make a more open and Visible Opposition
against

against both the *Tyrannical Power*, and *Idolatrous Worship* of the *Beast*: and therefore the *Beast* now at last, and toward the end of his 42. months, begins to rage, and maketh a greater and more cruel Opposition, both against the *Churches* and *Prophets* of the LORD, who are the *two Witnesses*, and all the *Saints*; by exercising his Power more tyrannically against them; which is the WAR here mentioned, *vers. 7.* as that was, *chap. 13. 7.* In the time of *Charles the fifth*, in *Germany, France, Scotland, &c.* and in *Queen Maries* dayes in *England, &c.*

In this WAR the *Beast* overcomes the *Witnesses*, *vers. 7.* as in that he overcame the *Saints*, *chap. 13. 7.* Some of the *Witnesses* are overcome by fear, and others by flattery; some by his *alurements* and *preferments*, others by his *threats* and *confinements* are overcome for a time; so far as to cease from bearing their Testimony against him so openly and vigorously as they did before; In which respect the *Beast* is here said to overcome them.

But this will not appease the rage, and great wrath of the *Beast*, for he perceives that the Testimony which the *Witnesses* bear in their more private Retirement, and Conventicles, (as they are called) or Meetings,

At this time witnesses were mostly confined to conventicles by Churches

will like a Moth waste, & secretly consume his Power and Dominion, and at last (if let alone and suffered to enjoy any liberty to meet together to *worship*) his Power and Dominion will be utterly destroyed, as is Prophesied, *Dan. 7. 26.* And therefore the *Beast* will take Council together with his chief Priests to KILL the *Witnesses* of the LORD, (as the high Priest, the chief Priests and Elders did to put our *Saviour* to death, *John 11. 47, to 53.*) And KILL them, *vers. 7.* The *killing* of the *two Witnesses* doth not signifie a *Corporal* death only, nor principally, for such a *killing* doth not agree with this Prophecie; but it is rather a *Metaphorical* Expression, which signifies a *two-fold* Death, partly Civil, whereby the *Witnesses* shall be deprived of their *civil* Liberties, and the *Exercise* of their Religion; their *Estates* confiscated, their *Persons* confined, Imprisoned, Banished; and *some* of their *Lives*, or *all* their *livelyhood* taken away by the tyrannical Power of the *Beast*; and partly, yea principally Spiritual, whereby the *Witnesses* shall be deprived of that *Zeal, Vigor, and Courage*, which with all boldness they had *formerly* manifested, in bearing their *Testimony* openly for *Christ*, his Kingdom, his Church, his Worship, and

and his Government; against the Antichristian *Beast*, his Kingdom, Church, Worship, and Government.

The darkness and blackness of the DAY of the Witnesses *death*, will principally consist in their being deprived of that *Spirit of Life* that sometimes they had received from God, and had formerly exercised in bearing their Testimony: which Spirit of Life the *Witnesses* lose by cooling in their *Spiritual* affections unto Christ, and by their sinning against the LORD; for usually when Ministers or Members of Churches fall from their first Love, they fall in with the Apostacy of the time; and so lose that life and courage which they formerly had, and manifested with great boldness for Christ against Antichrist.

This *Spiritual* kind of death is most agreeable unto their Resurrection, that is effected by that Spirit of Life from God, which, vers. 11. after three dayes and an half shall enter into them. Now such as is the Resurrection of the *Witnesses*, such is their *death*: But their Resurrection is *Spiritual*, (for vers. 11. the Spirit of Life from God entred into them) therefore their death is *Spiritual*, viz, A depravation of that Spirit of Life, that is to say, the loss of that courage,

rage, boldness, zeal, vigor, and life, which they formerly had, and manifested in their *Testimony* for *Christ* against the *Beast*.

This kind of *death* is also most agreeable unto the *Witnesses* lying dead after they were killed, in respect both of the place, which is *Spiritually* called *Sodom* and *Egypt*, ver. 8. and of the time when they lay unburied, which is *Prophetically* said to be three dayes and an half, vers. 9.

Touching the fourth Particular, viz. *What is the Street of the great City in which their dead Bodies lie.*

The *Answer* unto this Particular is *Mysteriously* given in the 8, & 9. verses of this Chapter, *And their dead Bodies shall lie in the Street of the great City, &c.*

The great City is that mentioned, chap. 17. 8. *Which reigneth over the Kings of the Earth*, to wit, the *WOMAN* that sits upon a *Scarlet-coloured BEAST*, chap. 17. 3. which is the great *WHORE*, chap. 17. 1. whose Name is *Mystery BABYLON*, the Mother of *HARLOTS*, chap. 17. 5. viz. the whole *Antichristian Kingdom* of the *Beast*, all *Mystical Babylon*.

The *Street* of the great City is some *noted Street*, (as a *Market-Street*) or some *eminent*

minent Street, (*as Cheap-side*) or some open Street or place (*as Smithfield*) within or without the *great City*, under the Dominion and Government thereof.

By this *Street* we are to understand some eminent Part of Mystical *Babylon*, and Kingdom of the Beast, *viz.* some of the ten Kingdoms which appertain unto the Dominion of the Beast, and not his whole Kingdom, nor the whole City: It is not said in the *Streets* of the *great City*, but in the *Street*, to wit, the most eminent Kingdom for the Testimony of Jesus Christ, even that Nation where the *Witnesses* have most eminently born their Testimony against Antichrist.

The place being spoken of by way of eminency, must be understood either in relation to the *Witnesses*, or in respect unto the Beast that kills them, or to both: Now take either of these, or both together, and it signifies not the whole *Witnesses*, nor the whole Kingdom of *Babylon*, but a part thereof. Not the whole Kingdom of *Babylon*, because upon the rising and ascending of the *Witnesses*, there is but a part of the Kingdom of *Babylon* falls, *And the tenth part of the City fell*, vers. 13. which is that part here meant by *this Street*.

Nor all the *Witnesses* of Christ in all the

the WORLD, no nor in all the Kingdoms of *Babylon*, because there are some Witenesses remain alive when these *two* are killed, who shall call upon them to come up to them, when the Spirit of Life from the Lord doth again enter into them, and cause them to stand upon their feet, *vers. 12.* And they heard a great Voice from Heaven saying unto them, *Come up hither.* Which Voice from Heaven, is the call of those Angels, who have the seven last Plagues and come out of the Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony in Heaven when it is opened, to come up to Mount *Zion* to them, where they and other Saints stand with the Lamb, and to see the Judgement of the great WHORE, which will appear by comparing, *chap. 11. 12, 19. 14. 1, 5, 15. 1, 2, 5, 6. 17. 1.* And the Temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there were voyces, *chap. 11. 19.* And the seven Angels came out of the Temple --- in Heaven *chap. 16. 6.* And one of the seven Angels which had the seven Vials, said, *Come up hither, and I will shew thee the judgment of the great Whore, &c.*

As touching the fifth Particular, viz. *What time is to be understood by the three days and an half, vers. 9.*

The knowledge of the *time* when the *Witnesses* shall be killed and rise again, is very desirable unto the Saints in this GENE-
 RATION ; many godly and learned Men have laboured *studiously* in searching out this *time*, and have communicated their understanding about this Matter ; whose labours have been profitable unto the Lords people, and unto me also ; who having read their Opinions about the *ending* time of the *Witnesses Sackcloth-condition*, and of the *troubles* of the Lords People, I have been much comforted by several precious Observations which they have made touching this matter : But not being fully satisfied with their Determination of the *period* of that *ending* time, I have also addicted my self to search the *holy* Scriptures touching such *Prophetical* Numbers as seem to contain the *ending* time ; And I shall take liberty to give my Opinion also, and the grounds thereof, *viz.*

1. The three dayes and an half, are three years and an half ; *each day for a year*, according to the prophetical Account of *Mystical* dayes, *Numb.* 14. 34. and *Ezek.* 4. 5, 6.

2. The three dayes and an half, are those three years and an half which do *immediate-*

ly succeed the killing or death of the *Witnesses*; for after they are killed, their dead Bodies are seen three dayes and an half, *chap. 11. 9.* and they do immediately preceed their Resurrection; for after three dayes and an half, the Spirit of Life from God doth enter into the *Witnesses*, and they stand upon their feet, *chap. 11. 11.* So then, *The three years and an half are the time of the interval between the Death and the Resurrection of the two Witnesses.*

3. The three dayes (or years) and an half, is the *ending-time* of the *Witnesses* 1260. dayes, (or years) and of the Beasts 42. months (or 1260. years.) For the clear demonstration of this third Particular, let it be considered;

First, That the time when the Beast kills the *Witnesses*, is towards the end of the 1260. dayes or years of their Prophefying, *chap. 11. 7.* When they are about to finish their Testimony; and therefore the *Witnesses* are killed before the time of their 1260. dayes or years be ended, to wit, three dayes or years and an half before.

Secondly, The killing of the *Witnesses*, and the rejoycing over their dead bodies, are the last Acts of the Beast's Tyrannical Power, and of the Whores Triumphant Joy; and there

therefore must be near the *ending-time* of the Beast's 42. months, and also of the 42. months, wherein the Gentiles (*who are the Idolatrous worshippers of the Beast*) tread the *holy City* (*that is, the Church of God*) under their feet.

That the killing of the **Witnesses** is the last Act of the Beast's tyrannical-Power, appears plainly; for as soon as the Witnesses rise, *Babylon* begins to fall, chap. 11. 11, 13. *And they stood upon their feet; and the same hour --- the tenth part of the City fell.*

That the rejoycing over their dead Bodies is the last Act of the Whores triumphing-Joy, appears plainly; for as soon as her Joy and Rejoycing is over, the day and hour of her Judgement came, chap. 17. 7, 8, 10. *For she saith in her heart, I sit as a Queen, and am no Widow, and shall see no sorrow; therefore shall her Plagues come in one day, &c.*

The things that the Saints in this GENERATION ought to know touching the time of the Witnesses lying dead; Are,

1. That the *time* of the END, or the *ending-time* of the Witnesses prophesying in Sackcloth; of the Beast's tyrannical POWER; of the *holy City*, her being troden under foot of the Gentiles, and of the Wo-

mans being in her *Wilderness*-condition, is near at hand ; for the finishing Testimony is begun, *to wit*, the Gospel of the Kingdom of our LORD Jesus Christ, which is a certain fore-runner of the ending-time of this **WORLD**, *Mat. 24. 14. Rev. 11. 7. And when they were about to finish this Testimony* ; That is, when they began to preach the Gospel (*or glad tidings*) of the Kingdom ; the Beast killed them, which is the last Act of his tyrannical POWER.

2. That although the *ending-time* be near, yet the *period* thereof will not be certainly known until the last three years and an half be begun, and well nigh expired, *Dan. 12. 4, 9. and Hab. 2. 3. The Vision is yet for an appointed time, at the END it shall speak, and not lie ; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come.*

3. That when the *ending-time* is come and begun, before it be expired, there shall such *remarkable* and *wonderful* things come to pass (as are foretold in the Scriptures) whereby the wise shall understand, and certainly know that it is the time of the **END**, *viz.*

First, Then will be such tribulation, and such a time of trouble as never was before, *Dan. 12. 1. Mat. 24. 21, 22.*

Secondly,

Secondly, Then will be such an Apostacy among Professors, Ministers, Prophets, and Churches, as never was before, 2 *Tim.* 3. 1. -- 5. and 2 *Thes.* 2. 3.

Thirdly, Then will begin a very glorious Reformation in the Worship of God, by the Spirit of Life from God, which Spirit of Life entring into the slain *Witnesses*, will set them upon their feet, *that is to say*, will cause them again to stand up for Christ and his Kingdom, and against Antichrist and his Kingdom: And then will the Temple of God (*that is to say*, the Church and Worship of God) be opened in Heaven, chap. 11. 11. & 10. 11. & 11. 19. Which in the times of the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the Mouth of all his holy Prophets since the *WORLD* began, Acts 1. 21.

Touching the last Particular, viz. *How the Witnesses shall be raised again, and what are the effects thereof.*

The Answer unto this Particular, is My-
cally held forth in the 11, 12, 13, and 4. verses of this Chapter.

First, As to the time; After three dayes and an half, vers. 11. by which we are to understand three years and an half, (*as have before proved*) that is to say, at or

before the end of that time ; for as it was said of our LORD and Saviour, *Mark 8. 31* After three days he should rise again, which he did on the third day, *1 Cor. 15. 3, 4*. So it is likewise said of his *Witnesses*, after three dayes and an half, the Spirit of Life from God entred into them, and they stood upon their feet, according to what was foretold by one of the Lords Prophets, *Hos. 6. 2* *After two dayes he will revive us, in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*

The means of the *Witnesses* Resurrection, is the Spirit of Life from the Lord which entred into them, *vers. 11*. viz. that Spirit of Life, Power, Courage, Zeal, and Boldness which the two *Witnesses* formerly had received from God, and had exercised in bearing their Testimony for the Kingdom of Christ &c. and against the Kingdom of Antichrist &c. but had lost by falling from their first love, and by falling in with the *last* Apostasy ; which Spirit of Life from God is again given unto them.

And they stood upon their feet, *vers. 12* that is to say, The *Witnesses* were raised, revived, and strengthened by the Spirit of Life from God ; for as the loss and departure of that Spirit of Life and courage to bear the

Testimony with boldness, was their death ; so the Spirit of Life from God entring into them, and renewing their Courage, reviving their Zeal, and increasing their Boldness in bearing their Testimony, is their Resurrection, and that which causeth them to stand upon their feet : which effect of the Spirit of Life from God, was typed out by the dry Bones of the House of *Israel*, *Ezek. 37. 5, 10, 14. O my People, ---- I will put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live.*

The LORD knows his Servants, his Witnesses are not able either to do much, or to say much for Christ and his Kingdom, &c. nor against Antichrist and his Kingdom, &c. unless they be spirited thereunto; and therefore when God had any eminent work or service to do, he did not onely raise up Instruments to do it, but spirited them accordingly. Thus the Spirit of the LORD came upon *Othniel*, *Judg. 3. 9, 10.* and upon *Gideon*, *Judg. 6. 34.* and upon *Jephthah*, *Judg. 11. 29.* and upon *Sampson*, *Judg. 14. 6, 19.* and *15. 14.* and upon *David*, *1 Sam. 16. 13.* And so it will do upon the Lords Witnesses, *Rev. 11. 11. And great fear came upon them (Enemies) that saw them.*

Secondly, The effect of the Witnesses Resurrection, or standing upon their feet, ei-

ther concerned *themselves*, vers. 12. or their *Bea*
Enemies, vers. 13. nar

Vers. 12. *And they heard a great Voice* st
from Heaven saying unto them.

The Witnesses being raised and spirited ver
 for the WORK of the LORD, are now cal- the
 led thereunto, which call is by a *great Voice* Re
from Heaven; that is out of the Temple of the
 God opened in Heaven, chap. 11. 19. to wit, rel
 the Church of God on Earth, whose Spiritu- Ch
 al Glory is described, chap. 12. 1. by a Wo- H
man cloathed with the Sun, &c. ce

This Voice, is the Voice of the *Remnant* th
 of the *Womans* Seed, who kept the Com- C
 mandments of God, (*viz.* Christs Gospel In- an
 stitutions, Acts 1. 2.) and have the Testimo- gl
 ny of Jesus, (*viz.* a Spirit of Prophecie a- 5
 mongst them, chap. 19. 10.) even then, and 8
 all that time of the three years and an half,
 when the Witnesses are killed, and their q
 dead Bodies lie in the Street of the great a
 City. v

Which *Remnant* of the *Womans* Seed, do c
 call upon the raised Witnesses, saying unto 2
 them, *Come up hither*, vers. 12. that is to say, t
Come and joyne with us, and worship God t
 with us; *Come* and help us to carry on the J
 Work of the LORD, his Kingdom, &c.
 and to pull down the Kingdom, &c. of the
Beast,

Beast, which call or invitation of the Remnant, the Witnesses did straightway answer as followeth.

And they ascended up to Heaven in a Cloud, vers. 12. This signifies a glorious change in the state of the *Witnesses*, attending their Resurrection, which they now attended by their *Testimony*, called a Cloud, in which respect those eminent Believers, *Heb. 11. Chapter*, are called a *Cloud of Witnesses*, *Heb. 12. 11.* And the *Witnesses* swift ascension, or going up unto those that called them, is fitly resembled unto a bright Cloud, as the Conversion of the Gentiles, and their coming into the Jews after their glorious Conversion, *Isa. 60. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8.* *Who are these that flee as a Cloud,* &c.

And the same hour was there a great Earthquake, Vers. 13. By this *Earth-quake* we are to understand great Commotions, overturnings, and downfalls in the Kingdoms of Antichrist, as *chap. 6. 12.* and *Mat. 24. 7.* which great Change is said to happen the *same hour* with the *Witnesses Ascension*, that is to say, at the same time when the *Witnesses* rise, the Papists fall.

And the tenth part of the City fell, Verse 13. By the City, here is meant the whole Roman

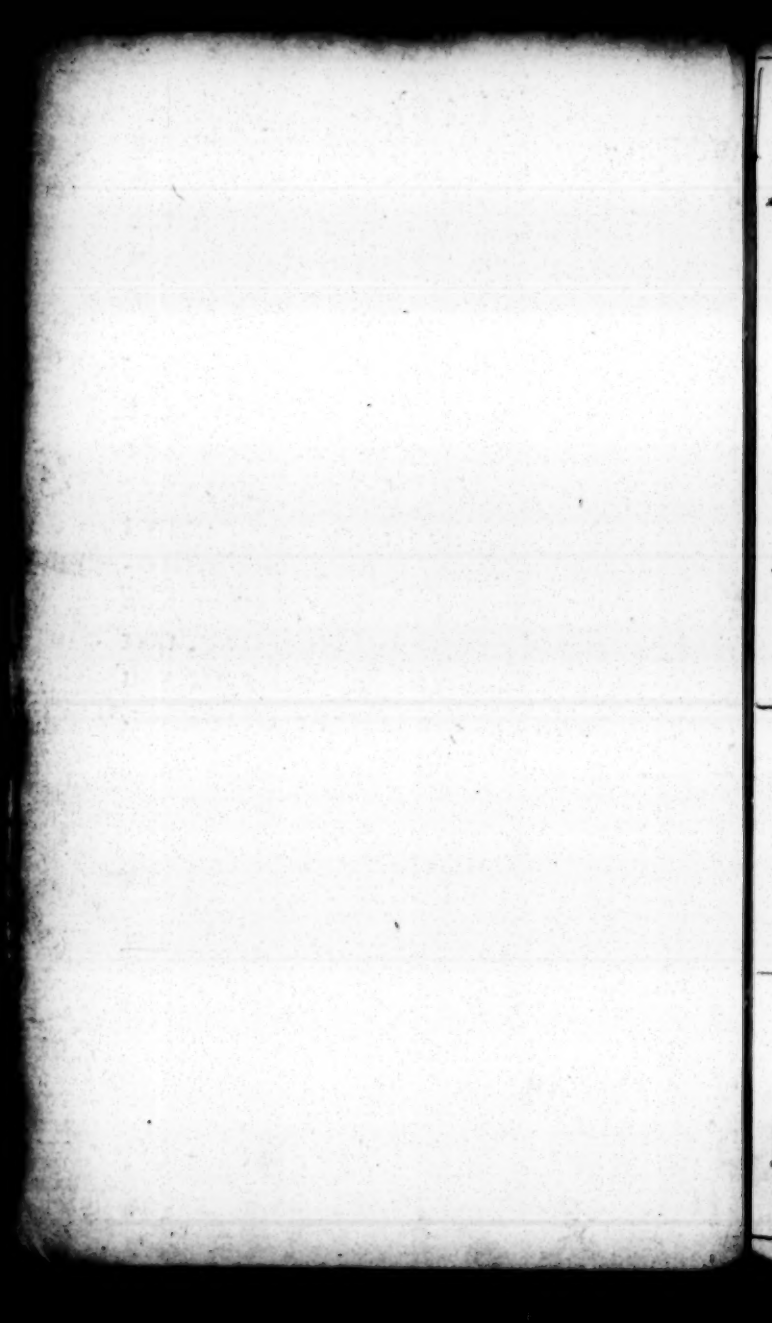
Roman Antichristian Kingdom of the Beast as *vers.* 8. and *chap.* 17. 18. And by the *tenth part* of the City, we are to understand one of the ten Kingdoms of *Mystical Babylon*, for the *whole City* consisting of ten Kingdoms, *chap.* 12. 3. & 13. 1. and 17. 12. the *tenth part* of the City must be understood of some ONE of the ten Kingdoms, to wit, that Kingdom where the *Witnesses* lay slain, called the STREET of the great City, *vers.* 3. And the *Retaliation* which follows, seemeth to favour this Interpretation, *And in the Earth-quake were slain of men seven thousand*, *vers.* 13. viz. seven thousand men of Name; which fall of so many eminent Persons of the Antichristian Party, will become a means of Conversion unto many others of that Party, *vers.* 13. *And the Remnant were afrighted, and gave glory to the God of Heaven.*

Verse 14. *The second VVOE is past, and behold the third VVOE cometh quickly.*

By the *second WOE* we are to understand all the Troubles, Plagues, and Judgements of the sixth Trumpet, recorded from *chap.* 9. 13. unto *chap.* 11. 14. which are now past and ended. *And the third VVOE cometh quickly*, to wit, upon the sounding of the *seventh Trumpet*, which is the *third VVOE*.

WOE-*trumpet* which is to be sounded by the seventh Angel, *chap.* 8. 13. which *seventh* Trumpet brings in the Dispensation of the *seven* Vials of the *last* Plagues of God upon *Babylon*, which is fitly called the third (*or last*) WOE.

Touching which *third* WOE, or *Vials* of the *last* Plagues of God upon *Babylon*, I have something to offer in the *second* Part of this little *Treatise*, which I judge meet for the Saints in this *Generation* to know; And therefore I shall pray that God will open the Scriptures unto you, (*that shall read it*) and open your understanding, that you may know the Truth, and what you ought to do in this *day* of your *Generation*. Amen.



Apocalyptical MYSTERIES.

The Second Part,
Touching the *Seven* VIALS.

Revel. 16. Chapter.



L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year, 1667.

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Apocalyptical MYSTERIES.

The Second Part,
Touching the *Seven* VIALS.

Revel. 16. Chapter.

THis *Chapter* containeth the Angels *Commission*, to execute the wrath of God upon the Beast, and their *execution* thereof gradually, by pouring out one *Vial* after another, until all the seven *Vials* of the seven *last* Plagues be poured out upon *Babylon*, unto whom is given the *Cup* of the Wine of the fierceness of the wrath of God, *vers. 19.* of which *Cup* every one that worshipping the *Beast* and his *Image*, and receiveth his *Mark* in his Forehead, or in his hand, shall drink, *Chap. 14. 8, 9, 10, 11.*
The

The Angels *Commission* is in the first verse of this Chapter, *And I heard a great Voice out of the Temple, saying, Go your wayes, and pour out the Vials of the wrath of God upon the Earth.*

In this *Commission* observe Christ's Command for the execution of the wrath of God upon *Babylon*; wherein you have, first, The Divine Authority of it, *A great Voice out of the Temple*; Secondly, The Persons to whom the Command was given, *Saying to the seven Angels, Go now.* Thirdly, The work which they were commanded to do, *Pour out the Vials of the wrath of God upon the Earth.*

This great Voice was the Voice of the LORD, *Isa. 66. 6. A Voice from the Temple, the Voice of the LORD, that rendereth recompence to his Enemies.* It is called a great Voice; not onely to shew us that it is the Lord's Voice, but his Voice out of *Zion*, which is his *Temple*, as was prophesied *Joel 3. 16. The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his Voice from Jerusalem, and the Heavens and the Earth shall shake.* Yea, to declare that the great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hastned greatly, *Zeph. 1. 14, 15.* which dispensation of the day of wrath, the Prophet call

leth, *The Voice of the Day of the LORD*, Zeph. 1. 14, 15. And such is that Voice which is uttered out of the *Temple of Heaven*, from the *Throne*, saying, It is done, *vers. 17. of this Chapter*; upon the pouring out of the *seventh Vial*.

The *Temple* in this first verse, is called, *The Temple of the Tabernacle of the Testimony in Heaven*, chap. 15. 5. and *the Temple of God opened in Heaven*, chap. 11. 19. And in the 17. verse of this Chapter, *the Temple of Heaven*. Not that we are to understand it to be in Heaven, in respect of place, for *John* saw no such Temple in the holy and Heavenly City, chap. 21. 22. But by the Temple of Heaven, or in Heaven, is meant the Heavenly State of the Church of God on Earth, restored to its Apostolical institutions, and Primitive purity, called, *the Temple of the Living God*, 2 Cor. 6. 16. It is called the *Temple of the Tabernacle*, to note, that the Church of God on Earth at this time of the pouring out of the seven Vials, is not so glorious, nor so fixed, as the Temple was in *Solomons* time, but rather doth resemble the *Tabernacle* of the Congregation of the LORD, which had been in the Wilderness, and was come into the promised Land; in which *Tabernacle* of

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the

the Congregation of *Israel*, there was a signal *Testimony* of the presence of God, *Num.* 9. 15, 16. where was also the Ark of his Covenant, and wherein was the Service of God performed, and all his holy Sacrifices offered, *1 Chron.* 16. 17, 37, 40. And so when this Temple of the Tabernacle was opened, *Rev.* 11. 19. *There was seen in his Temple the Ark of his Covenant; and those who had washed their Robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, that did serve him day and night in his Temple,* chap. 7. 14, 15.

The seven *Angels* which had command to pour out the *Vials* of the wrath of God, are them *same seven* who had the seven last *Plagues*, chap. 15. 1. the same seven *Angels* came out of the *Temple*, vers. 6. and the same seven *Angels* had given unto them seven golden *Vials* full of the *wrath* of God, vers. 7.

Seven is a Prophetical Number, signifying both *variety* of Instruments, and perfection of the Judgements of God in this Prophecie, as the seven *Trumpets*, chap. 8. 1, 6, 3. *Some* denouncing, and *others* executing these last *Plagues*.

These *Angels* are cloathed with pure and white Linnen, and girded with golden Girdles

dles, *chap. 15. 6.* Their Cloathing declares some of them to be the Priests of God, for so were the Priests of the Temple cloathed, *Levit. 6. 10. & 16. 4. 1 Sam. 2. 18.* And this was the Lords Institution, *Exod. 39. 27, 28, 29.* Their being girded with golden Girdles, shews that others of them are the *Magistrates* of the LORD, into whose hand God will commit the Government of the Kingdom of Christ, *Isa. 22. 21, 22, 23.* The Ministers of the Churches are called Angels, *chap. 1. 20.* *The Angels of the seven Churches.* And Kings also are compared unto Angels, *1 Sam. 29. 9. & 2 Sam. 14. 7.* *As an Angel of God, so is my Lord the King.* The whole Description testifies these Angels to be Kings and Priests unto God, whom Christ hath made such, *Rev. 5. 9, 10.* who was so cloathed and girded himself, *chap. 1. 13.* *And in the midst of the seven Candelsticks, was one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a Garment down to the foot, and girt about the Paps with a golden Girdle:* A Description of our Lord Jesus Christ, as Priest and King in his Church.

Objection. But how can the pouring out of the Vials of the Plagues of Almighty God, full of his great wrath, be applyed

unto the Ministers of the Gospel, who are to preach the most precious sweet soul-saving Truths of Jesus Christ, especially considering that by these Vials and Plagues are meant the real and external Judgment and Plagues which God will have executed by those Angels upon the *Whore*, as appears *chap. 18. 8. Therefore shall her Plagues come in one day, Death, Famine, &c.*

Answer. The Ministers of the Gospel may be said to pour out the Vials of God's great wrath, even his real and material Plagues, and most righteous Judgments upon the great City *Babylon*; as the Prophecies of old are said to root out, and pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, *Jer. 1. 10, 16.* and to take the *Wine-Cup* of the Lords fury at his hand, and to make a Nations (*to whom God sends them*) to drink of it, *Jer. 25. 15, 16, 17, --- 28.* And thus they did by pronouncing those Judgments of God against them, which the Lord commanded them, *Jer. 1. 16.* Even so the Ministers of the Gospel pour out the Vials of the wrath of God, & real Plagues upon Mystical *Babylon*, by pronouncing those last Plagues of the wrath of God against her.

3. These *Angels* come out of the Tem

ple, chap. 15. 6. after it was opened. This doth declare them to be the raised *Witnesses* of the Lord Jesus Christ; for the Temple was not opened (*in the Vision unto John*) until the *slain Witnesses* were risen, and had ascended the Throne, chap. 11. 7, 11, 15, 17, 19. So their coming out of the Temple signifies their Saint-ship, and that these Angels are fellow Citizens with the Saints, and of the Household of God, built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief Corner Stone, in whom all the Building fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy Temple in the Lord, Eph. 2. 19, -- 22.

And who are more fit to declare the vengeance of the Lord, *even the vengeance of his Temple*, Jer. 50. 28. then the *Ministers* of God in Zion? Or who are more meet to execute the Righteous Judgments of God upon *Babylon*, then those Magistrates into whose hand the LORD will commit the Government of Christs Kingdom here on Earth, called, *The People of the Saints of the most High*, Dan. 7. 27. whom the LORD of Hosts will make his Battle Ax, and Weapons of War, and with whom he will break in pieces the Nations, and destroy Kingdoms, and render unto *Babylon*

all the evil that she hath done in *Zion*, *Jer*
51. 20, 24.

Lest it might be dubious how the Saints
or true Worshipers in the Churches, Mi-
nisters or Magistrates, should execute the
fierceness of Gods wrath upon *Babylon*, and
upon the *Kingdom* of the Beast, consider that
some of the Angels which came out of the
Temple, may be also the *holy* Angels of God
who are said to be about the *Throne* in the
Temple, chap. 5. 11. worshipping God with
the four living Creatures, and twenty four
Elders, chap. 7. 11. and who are said to ac-
company the Saints, that were cloathed
with white *Robes*, and *Palmes* in their
hands, chap. 7. 9, 10, -- 15. (*an Emble*
of the victory they had gotten over the Beast
and his Image, chap. 15. 2.) For the *holy*
Angels of God are present in the Assem-
blies of the Saints, 1 *Cor.* 11. 10. 1 *Pe*
1. 12. 1 *Tim.* 5. 21. And they are sent
forth to minister for them; and therefore
may be said also to come out of the *Tem*
ple (*as well as the Saints*) to execute the
righteous Judgements of God upon *Bab*
ylon, chap. 18. 1, 2. And Christ also, *is*
the Angel of the Covenant.

By the *Earth*, here we are to understand
the earthly State of *Babylon*, as it is contri-
buted

distinguished from the *Heavenly State* of *Zion*, which is the true Church of God, *Rev. 9. 1. I saw a Star fall from Heaven to the Earth*; which was the visible *Apostasy* of the *Clergy* from the *Heavenly State* of the True Church of God, for soundness of Doctrine, purity of Worship, and power of Discipline, to an *earthly State* of a false Church, with respect unto corrupt Doctrine, superstitious Worship, and *tyrannical Discipline*, after the Inventions and precepts of Men.

And as the Earth, *Gen. 1. 2.* is a genetal *earth*, which comprehended the Land, the Seas, the Firmament, with the Sun, Moon, and Stars; the Air, and all Men, Beasts, Fowls of the Air, and every creeping thing that God created and made out of that *Mass* or *Chaos*. So by the Earth *here* is comprehended the Earth, Sea, Sun, Seat, and all other things of the Beasts devising, mentioned in this Chapter; and also those Inhabiters of the Earth, which are the *Objects* of the three dreadful *WOES* mentioned, *chap. 8. 13.* whereof the third *Woe* contains the 7. *Vials* of the last *Plagues* of God to be poured forth upon those Inhabiters of the Earth, who are the worshippers and admirers of the Beast, *chap. 13. 8. 17. 8. 14. 9, 10, 11.*

The *Saints* having gotten the *victory* over the *Beast*, and over his *Image*, and over his *Mark*, and over the *number* of his *Name*; the *Temple* of the *Tabernacle* of the *Testimony* in Heaven being opened; the *Doctrine*, *Worship*, and *Discipline* of the *Church* of God in some measure *restored* to their primitive *Purity*; the seven *Angels*, who have the seven last *Plagues*, being come out of the *Temple*, and having received seven golden *Vials* full of the *wrath* of God, with commission and exprefs command to execute the *fierceness* of the *Wrath* and *Plagues* of God, poured out their *Vials* upon the earthly State of the *Beast*, and *Mystical Babylon*, and upon all the *Inhabitants* of that *Earth*, *to wit*, the worshippers and admirers of the *Beast*; as hath been before declared and proved in the *Exposition* of the *first verse*.

And the first (Angel) went and poured out his Vial upon the Earth. vers. 2. of the *Beasts Kingdom*.

The *Earth in Scripture* is often taken for an *Earthly-State-Apostacy* in any *Nation* or *Kingdom*, upheld by men of corrupt *Minds*, and earthly *Interests*, *Gen.* 6. 11, 12, 13. *Zeph.* 3. 8 This *Earthly-State-Apostacy* is prophesied of, and foretold

the Apostle to be in the *last dayes*, 2 Tim. ch. 1, -- 5. and is most likely to be the Subject of the last Plagues which are to be poured out of the seven *Vials* upon the Earth, *vers.* 1. This *Earth* of the *Beasts* Kingdom, is that *Earth*, whose Inhabitants *rejoyced* over the Witnesses and Warriors of the LORD, when they were *slain* by the *Beast*, and their dead *Bodies* were not suffered to be put in *Graves*, chap. 11. 10. against whom that third *WOE* is pronounced, *chap.* 8. 13. and upon whom this first *Vial* is to be poured out. As the dry Land is called the *Earth*, Gen. 1. 10. so by the *Earth* in this *second verse*, we are to understand some thing in the *Beasts* Kingdom that bears a fit and full resemblance unto the dry Land.

1. For Foundations.
2. For all manner of Flood.
3. For fulness of Riches, *Psal.* 104. 5, 14.

And therefore by this *Metaphorical* Earth, we are to understand, the Foundation, Doctrines, and Principles of all false Religions, as the Doctrine of Justification by Works, the Doctrine of Popish Supremacy, the Doctrine of Purgatory, Mass, worshipping of Images, Crosses, Crucifixes,

fixes, Altars, &c. the Doctrine of the worship of God according to the Commandments and Inventions of men; the Doctrine of Magistratical and Ministerial Power *coercively* to be exercised over the Consciences of men, in the Matters of God, his Worship and Government, both Political, and Ecclesiastical, &c. which like the dry Land, (*called Earth*) *First*, Doth seem to stand so firm, that they shall not be removed for ever. And *secondly*, Out of those Earthly Doctrines is produced all manner of Food for them that make their belly their God, as the Abbots and Priests do. Also *thirdly*, Out of those *Earthly* Doctrines is produced abundance of *riches*, all their Temples, Cathedrals, Abbies, Friaries, Nunneries, Churches and Chapels, have been founded and built upon this Earth, which they that are the Inhabiters of this Earth, thought should never be removed, chap. 18. 7. *For she saith in her heart, I sit a Queen, and am no Widow, and shall see no sorrow.* Yea, the Popes themselves, and their Cardinals, Arch-Bishops, Prelates, Priests, and *all the Clergy*, (have been founded, fed, and enriched by these earthly Doctrines) who are the Inhabiters of this Earth, upon which
this

this first *Vial* shall be poured out, and against whom the third *Woe* is pronounced, chap. 8. 13. and upon whom the sad effects of this first *Vial* will inevitably fall, viz. a noysom and grievous sore which fell upon the men which had the *Mark* of the *Beast*, and upon them which worshipped his Image; which bears some *allusion* unto one of the noysome and grievous *Plagues* of *Egypt*, Exod. 9. 10, 11. This Sore being noysome, causeth both Lovers and Friends unto *Babylon* to stand afar off for fear of her Torment, chap. 18. 10, 15, 17. And it being a grievous Sore, causeth much pain and torment unto the worshippers of the *Beast* and his *Image*, chap. 14. 8, 9, 10, 11. [which are the properties of such Sores, *Psal.* 38. 11. & 77. 2.]

The second *Angel* poured out his *Vial* upon the *Sea* of the *Beasts* Kingdom, verse 3. that is to say, upon the *Ecclesiastick* Constitutions, Forms, Ordinances, Masses, Traditions, Will-worships, and all other *Poppish* Superstitions, and Inventions of *Mythical Babylon*, that great *Whore*, and *Mother* of Harlots, (viz. both ill-favoured and well-favoured Harlots) the *Catholick* and *National Churches* of *Rome*, *Spain*, *France*, &c. which *Idolatrous Worship*, (like the
Sea,

Sea, when it is troubled, *Isa. 57. 20.*) is full of mire and dirt. As the gathering together of the Waters is called *Seas*, Gen. 1. 10. so the gathering together of the general Councils, National Synods, Diocesan Visitations, Courts, &c. are called Seas, as the Sea of *Rome*, the Popes Sea, the Cardinals Sea, *Canterburies* Sea, *York's* Sea, &c. In which Sea of Mystical *Babylon*, the Kings of the Earth, the Merchants of the Earth, Masters of Ships, and as many as Trade by Sea do traffick for the States and Souls of men, &c. chap. 18. 9, 11. The effects of this *Vial* is blood and death unto the Idolatrous and Superstitious worshippers. Behold, the righteous Judgements of God, and his just Retaliation unto the Scarlet and Bloody Whore, and false Prophet, the Sea of *Rome*, and all other Mystical Seas of the *Romish* and *Babylonish* Churches in any Nation, whose Sea, by the pouring out of this *second Vial*, shall become like the blood of a dead Man, and every living Soul died in this Sea.

And this Plague also may have some Allusion unto that Plague of *Aegypt*, Exod. 7. 20, 21. whose Waters was turned into blood, and the Fish that was therein died. So bloody and so deadly is the Idolatrous-wor-

ship

ship of the *Sea of Rome*, and of all other Nations that worship the *Beast* or his *Image*, who shall utterly be destroyed, as appears, chap. 14. 9, 10, 11.

The third Angel poured out his Vial upon the Rivers and Fountains of Waters in the Beasts Kingdom, vers. 4.

These *Mystical Rivers and Fountains of Waters*, bear some Allusion unto those *material Rivers and Fountains* which *Solomon* saith, run into the *Sea*, Eccles. 1. 7. As the *Fountains or Spring-heads* run into the *Rivers*, and the *Rivers* run into the *Sea*; so the *Emperors, Kings, Princes, and Nobles* of the *Roman Antichristian Politick and Ecclesiastick Government and Kingdom*, give their power and strength unto the *Beast*, chap. 17. 12, 13. And to his *Councils, Synods, Courts, &c.* which is the *River* into which these *Fountains* run, and so into the *Sea of Rome, Canterbury, &c.* The great *Monarchs* of this *World*, and *Kings of the Earth*, are said in *Scripture* to be the *Head of their Rivers*, Ezek. 29. 3, 4. & 32. 2, 6. *I will also water with thy blood the Land wherein thou swimest, &c.* Again, as the *Fountains* do signify *Kings, &c.* so by the *Rivers* into which their streams do continually run and
are

are filled, and influenced by them, is meant the Antichristian Hierarchy, Popish Clergy, and all the false *Prophets*, Teachers, and Priests, and upon all that are in *holy Orders*, (*as they speak*) who preach the Doctrine of the Beast, and worship his *Image*; such as these are called *Wells*, (though without any *living and refreshing Water*) 2 *Pet.* 2. 1, 17. And they are here fitly resembled unto *Rivers* of Waters in the Beasts Kingdom. This Antichristian Monarchy, Hierarchy, Popish Clergy, Priests and Prelates, (like the Rivers and Fountains in and about a great City, *Isa.* 18. 27. *Ezek.* 32. 2.) though they spoil the Land, and waste the City, and foul the Waters, [for as a Fountain casteth out her filthy Waters, so do these corrupt Fountains cast out their wickedness, *Jer.* 6. 7.] yet that great City, *Mystical Babylon*, is made very great, (*and like the Assyrian of old*, *Ezek.* 31. 3, 4, 5.) her height is exalted, and she is *enriched*, because of the multitude of these Waters and Fountains of hers, whose Nurseries and Seminaries, like the deep, with her Rivers running round about their Plants, send out their little Rivers unto all the Trees of the field, and into the deep Sea.

The effect of this *Vial* is their own blood, which God in his *righteous* Judgements gives those Monarchs, Kings, Prelates, Priests, and all the Popish Church and Clergy-men to drink, as a just *Retaliation* of the blood of the faithful Saints, and Sackcloth *Witnesses*, which this *Scarlet Beast* and bloody Whore of *Rome* hath shed, by persecuting and killing them, chap. 13. 7. & 11. 7. 17. 4, 5, 6. & 18. 20, 24. For which Judgments the LORD is acknowledged by all his Saints, and holy Angels in Heaven and on Earth, *to be Righteous*; and his Judgements also are acknowledged by them *to be true and Righteous*, verse 5, 6, 7.

The fourth Angel poured out his *Vial* upon the Sun of the Beasts Kingdom, vers. 8.

That is to say, Upon the Emperour of Germany, the King of Spain, &c. with respect to the Temporal and Political part of the Beast's Kingdom, and upon the Pope of Rome, the Popish Cardinals, and Arch-Bishops, &c. with respect to the Spiritual and Ecclesiastical part of the Beast's Kingdom; those Antichristian Emperors, Kings, Popes, and Prelates, (like the Sun in the Firmament of Heaven, Gen. 1. 16, 17, 18.) are most eminent and chief Lights, and have

have the most eminent Grandeur, Rule and Dominion in the Firmament or Fabrick of the Beast's Politick and Ecclesiastick Government and Kingdom; and are fitly resembled by the Sun, and other Lights of Heaven, *Isa. 13. 9, 10, 11.*

The effect of this *Vial*, is the scorching of men with great heat, *vers. 9.* By the power that was given unto this *Angel* so to do, *vers. 8.* The men that are scorched with fire, and with great heat, *vers. 8, 9.* are those men of the Beast's Kingdom, who worship the Beast and his Image, *chap. 14. 8, 9, 10, 11.* who are tormented with Fire and Brimstone, which causeth them to blaspheme the Name of God, who hath power over these Plagues; And they repented not to give him glory, *vers. 9.* The Fire and Heat, are the burning Heat and devouring Fire of the fierceness of God's great wrath poured out of this *Vial* upon the Sun, which causeth those dreadful Effects, *Rev. 18. 8.* And she shall be utterly burnt with Fire; for strong is the Lord that judgeth her.

And the fifth *Angel* poured out his *Vial* upon the Seat of the Beast, *vers. 10.*

Who this fifth *Angel* is, the Exposition of the first verse gives us to understand, viz. Some of those Magistrates into whose

hand God will commit the Government of the Kingdom of Christ, (*as was proved before*) And some of those Ministers of his Churches, who shall come out of the Temple, *even* such of his Saints as our Lord Jesus Christ hath redeemed and made *Kings and Priests* unto God, who shall reign on Earth, assisted by Christ, *the Angel of the Covenant*, and his *Heavenly Angels*, to execute the righteous Judgments of God, (*as was also proved before*) by pouring out of the Vials of the wrath of God.

This *Vial* is one of those seven golden *Vials* which was given unto the seven Angels, which were full of the wrath of God, and contained the last Plagues, which are to be poured out upon Myttical *Babylon*, to her utter destruction, *as hath been proved, before*, and chap. 16. vers. 19. and all them that worship the *Beast* and his *Image*, chap. 14. 8, 9, 10, 11. These *Vials* are called the *Cup* of Gods Indignation, and the *Cup* of the *Wine* of the fierceness of his wrath.

The *Beast* is the *Object* of the *Wrath* of God, *even* of the *fierceness* of his great *Wrath*, upon whom the *LORD* will pour out all his *Plagues* first and last, and *Babylon* shall drink the *Cup* of his Indignation,
E chap.

chap. 14. 10. and the nineteenth verse of this Chapter.

Beast in this *Propheſie* of the *Revelation*, is ſometimes named without any diſtinction ; and then by *Beaſt* we are to underſtand the whole Complex Body of the Antichriſtian Politick and Eccleſiaſtick State of the *Roman Kingdom, Church, and Government*, as chap. 11. 7, 13. 18, 14. 9, 11. and ſometimes the *Beaſt* is named with diſtinction, chap. 13. 11, 12. as if there were two *Beaſts*, both which is but one *Beaſt* diſtinguiſhed by his *twofold*, Power, and Dominion, to wit, Political and Eccleſiaſtical, as doth appear, *verſ. 1. & 4.* So chap. 17. 3. the *Beaſt* and the *Woman*, that is to ſay, the Political Government, and the Eccleſiaſtick State ; likewise chap. 16. 13. and 19. 20. the *Beaſt*, and the *false Prophet* ; alſo the *Beaſt* and his *Image*, chap. 13. 14. By the *Beaſt* we are to underſtand the *Roman Antichriſtian Political State* Power and Dominion. By the *Woman*, which is the *Whore*, the *Image* of the *Beaſt*, and the *false Prophet*, (in divers reſpects) we are to underſtand the *Roman Antichriſtian Eccleſiaſtick State, Church, Worſhip, and Government*. The *Reason* of this diſtinction is the *two-fold Authority and Jurisdiction*.

on which the *Beast* exerciseth in the World, and in the Church ; and therefore the *Beast* is said to rise from *two* places, to wit, out of the *Sea*, Chap. 13. 1. and out of the *Earth*, vers. 11. and to have *two* Horns like the *Lamb*, chap. 13. 11. *that is to say*, a two-fold Power, *Political* and *Ecclesiastical*, both which was given unto the *Beast* by the *Dragon*, chap. 13. 2. *And the Dragon gave him his Power, and his Throne, and great Authority.* Which *Dragon* is called the old *Serpent*, the *Devil*, and *Satan*, chap. 12. 9. & 20. 2. *And he laid hold on the Dragon, that old Serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan.*

By the *Beast* then in this *verse*, is meant the Roman Antichristian Politick and Ecclesiastick State, Kingdom, Rule, Power, Dominion, Worship, and Government, to wit, the whole Complex Body of Antichrist, who hath his Power, Throne, and great Authority given unto him by the *Devil*, and doth by virtue thereof exercise both a Political and Ecclesiastical Government. And this Roman Politick and Ecclesiastick State, is that *Antichrist* who denieth the Father and the Son, 1 *John* 2. 22. and that *Man of Sin*, and Son of Perdition, 2 *Thes.* 2. 3, 4, 9, 10. *Who opposeth*

poseth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, even that Beast that ascended out of the bottomless Pit, and goeth into Perdition, chap. 17. 8, 11. As the *Beast* is the Object of the wrath of God, so the *Seat* of the *Beast* is the Subject upon which this fifth Vial of his wrath is poured out.

And the fifth Angel poured out his Vial upon the Seat of the Beast, vers. 10.

By the *Seat* of the *Beast* we are to understand the Place, even the principal place where the *Beast* doth exercise his Power and great Authority; which is *Rome*, and also all other great Cities where the *Beast* hath his Residence, his Throne, his Courts, and exerciseth his Grandeur and great Authority. The City of *Rome* is the seven Mountains on which the *Woman*, that is Mystical *Babylon*, sitteth, chap. 17. 5, 9. And the *Seat* of the *Beast* being distinct from his Power and Authority, as it is, chap. 17. 2. it must be interpreted of the place of the *Beast's* Residence, where his Throne is placed, and his Power and great Authority is principally exercised.

The effects of this fifth Vial are four.

First, A great Eclipse of the *Beast's* former Greatness, Grandeur, and Glor

And his Kingdom was full of darkness ; that is to say, The Beasts Kingdom and Dominion both in the Political and Ecclesiastical part thereof was totally eclipsed, darkened, and clouded.

The second effect of this Vial will be the extremity of Rage that the worshippers of the Beast will fall into ; And they gnawed their Tongues for pain.

The third effect of this Vial, will be their blasphemy against God ; And they blasphemed God because of their pain and sores.

The fourth effect will be, an impenitent frame of hardness of heart ; And they repented not of their deeds.

So that although the Beast and some of his worshippers live, after his Kingdom and Dominion, both Political and Ecclesiastical be destroyed, yet they repent not of their Idolatries, which causeth God to proceed in his Judgments, and to pour out the 6th and 7th Vials upon them.

And the sixth Angel poured out his Vial upon the great River Euphrates, vers. 12.

The Object of the wrath of God poured out of this Vial, is the River Euphrates.

There was a River that ran through Mesopotamia unto old Babylon, which by way of Eminency, above all other Rivers, is

called *the great River, the River Euphrates*, Gen. 15. 18. Deut. 1. 7. Josh. 1. 4. unto which this may bear some allusion; because what that *natural River* was to *Material Babylon*, this *Metaphorical River* is to *Mystical Babylon*. The principal benefits of a great River are two, viz. Revenue, Isa. 23. 3. *The Harvest of the River is her Revenue*; and Strength, Isa. 8. 7. *The Waters of the River strong and many, even the King of Assyria and all his glory*.

By the great River *Euphrates*, here we are to understand that which is the Harvest of *Babylons Revenue*, and the Puissance of her strength at this juncture of time, when the Throne of the *Beast*, by the pouring out of the fifth Vial, was broken, and in a measure destroyed. That the day of Gods great wrath will be upon the Merchandise of *Babylon*, viz. her Merchandise of Gold and Silver, precious Stones and Pearls, Purple and Scarlet, Wine and Oyl, Corn and Cattel, Slaves and Souls of Men, is manifest, chap. 18. 10, 11, 12, --- 17. *For in one hour so great Riches is come to nought*. And by that Judgment of God upon *Babylon*, her great Revenue (*which is one Stream of the great River*) is dried up.

But the strength of *Mystical Babylon* figured

gured forth by this great River *Euphrates*, (in this 12. verse) is the great Turk, and his numerous and mighty People ; who will be at this juncture of time aiding and assisting the *Beast*, and *Mystical* Babylon, against Christ and his *Zion* ; for which Cause God will pour out this Vial of his wrath upon both *Turk* and *Pope*, and upon all the People and Multitudes, who are the Waters of this great River, *chap. 17. 15.* And the Reason why I rather incline to this *Opinion*, (*than the former*) is, because all Expositors do interpret the great River *Euphrates*, *chap. 9. 14.* to be the *Turks*. Now considering that this great River is mentioned but in those two places of this Book of the *Revelation*.

First, Under the sixth Trumpet, *chap. 9. 14.*

And *secondly*, Under the sixth Vial, *chap. 16. 12.*

I conceive it is most probable that one sort or Nation of People is intended in both places, to wit, the *Turks*, who then did, and now do inhabit about that great River *Euphrates* ; and as the loosing of the four Angels which were bound in that great River, *chap. 9. 14.* signified the *Turks* breaking in and over-running the Nations,

as a Plague (*following Antichrist*) upon the
 Chrastian WORLD : So the drying up of
 the Water of this *same* great River, chap.
 16. 12. signifyeth the wasting and destroy-
 ing of the *Turks* Dominion, Power, and
 People, as a Plague upon them for stand-
 ing in the way of the LORD and his Peo-
 ple, and aiding, assisting, and helping his
 and his peoples Enemies, whom God hath
 purposed to destroy utterly ; *That the way*
of the Kings of the EAST might be prepa-
red, vers. 12.

By the *Kings of the East*, we are to un-
 derstand the *Jews*, who are called Kings,
 because of the Kingly Dignity which God
 will put upon them in that day, *Mich. 4. 8.*
The Kingdom shall come to the Daughter of
Jerusalem, Isa. 62. 1, 2, 3. Thou shalt be
a Crown of Glory in the Hand of the Lord,
and a Royal Diadem in the Hand of thy
God.

And the *Kings of the East*, because they
 shall come from the *East Countries*, at least
 some of them, *Isa. 43. 5. I will bring thy*
Seed from the East, &c.

The way that is to be prepared for the *Jews*,
 is two-fold.

First, For their Conversion.

And *secondly*, For their return unto their
 OWN

own Land, by taking the *stumbling-block* out of their way, Isa. 57. 14.

The *Papists* are a very great *Stumbling-block* unto the Conversion of the *Jews*; and the *Turks* are a great impediment unto their return unto their own Land, unto which God hath promised to bring them, Ezek. 37. 21, 22, 25. and to that end God will have both these *stumbling-blocks* removed out of the way of his Antient People the *Jews*.

That which followeth in the 13, 14, 15, 16 verses of this Chapter, is not any proper effect of this Vial, nor any part thereof, but rather an *interval* of time betwixt the *sixth* and *seventh* Vials, wherein some remarkable things are to be transacted in order to the pouring forth of the *seventh* Vial, and therefore contain a præparatory Vision thereunto.

In which Vision John saw three Embassadors or Agents sent from the Dragon, the Beast, and the false Prophet, to the Kings of the Earth.

The *Dragon* is that old *Serpent* called *Satan*, which is the *Devil*, chap. 20. 2. The *Beast* is the civil State or political Powers, which *Beast* rose out of the *Sea*, chap. 13. 1. The *false Prophet* is the Ecclesiastical State, which

which is the Beast that rose out of the Earth, chap. 13. 11. He is here called the *false Prophet*, because now he is unmasked, and his Vizard pluck't off, to wit, his pretended likeness unto the Lamb, chap. 13. 11. And now he is discovered to be that Deceiver and false Prophet which was to come.

The three unclean Spirits like Frogs, vers. 13. are their Embassadors or Agents, called *Spirits*, for their subtilty and activity, and pretending to be spiritual men, and employed principally about Religious and Spiritual Affairs, (*like Ahabs false Prophets,* 1 King. 22. 21, 22. *who deceived the Kings of Israel and Judah, in perswading them to go up to Ramoth Gilead to Battel*) and therefore are said to be *Spirits of Devils*, vers. 14. *working Miracles*: as the Devil raised up false Christ's, and false Apostles; so he doth false Prophets, *purposely* to deceive the Kings of the Earth, and the Inhabitants of the Earth, that they may not receive the true Christ, believe the true Apostles, nor regard the Testimony of the true Prophets of the Lord.

Before John sets down the *success* of this their *Negotiation*, he writes a word of warning, as it were a *Parenthesis*, vers. 15.

Behold I come as a Thief, &c. that is to say,

say, suddenly and unexpectedly, as *Mat. 24. 43, 44. and 2 Pet. 3. 10.*

Blessed is he that watcheth for my coming, and keepeth his Garments white and clean, and fast girded unto him; lest he walk naked, and they see his shame, 1 Tim. 5. 22. Jam. 1. 27.

The success of their Negotiation followeth, *vers. 16. And he gathered them together into a place, called in the Hebrew Tongue, Armageddon. He gathered them together, that is to say, the Dragon, which is the Devil, by his Frogs, those unclean spirits, gathered them together, viz. the Kings of the Earth.*

By *Armageddon* we are to understand the name of a place, which the Jews shall give after they have gotten some considerable victory over the *Turks*, and therefore called it *Armageddon*, the place of destruction of an Army; which happily may have an allusion unto that great destruction of the *Canaanites* at the Waters of *Megiddo*, *Judg. 5. 19.* when *Sisera* the chief Captain of *Habin*, with all his Hosts, fell by the hand of *Deborah*, and *Barack*, where was made such a total destruction, that it is said, *Judg. 5. 16. And the Host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the Sword, and there was not a man left.* And

And such an *universal* destruction will be the effect of this Battel at *Armageddon*, chap. 19. 20, 21.

And the seventh Angel poured out his *Vial* into the Air, &c. vers. 17.

The Object of this *Vial* is the *Air*, which notes the *universality* of the *Subjects* upon whom the *wrath* of God is poured out of this seventh *Vial*. The *Air* fills all places, no *Subject* can be more general then the *Air*.

By the *Air*, here we are to understand all Nations, Kingdoms, and People; all Places, Persons, and Things, that oppose the Kingdom, Worship, and Government of our Lord Jesus Christ, and his *Sion*, Isa. 60. 12.

The Earth, Sea, Rivers, Sun, and Seat of the Beast's Kingdom is destroyed by the former Vials; And by this seventh Vial shall be destroyed all things whatsoever remains of *Sathans* Kingdom; Who is called, *Ephes. 2. 2. The Prince of the power of the Air*.

The other six *Vials* were poured out upon their particular *Objects*, but this seventh Vial is poured out into its Subject; which notes the spreading and dilating of it self into every part of *Satan's* and the Beast's Kingdom, for the utter destruction of
even

every thing therein that remained.

So then the wrath of God poured out of this Vial, will diffuse and spread over,

First, *The whole Kingdom of Antichrist, or the Beast.*

Secondly, *The remaining Dominion and Kingdom of the Turks.*

And thirdly, *The whole Kingdom of the Dragon, that old Serpent, which is the Devil.*

And when all these *Enemies* against Christ and his Kingdom shall be destroyed by the pouring out of this seventh Vial, then comes a great Voice out of the Temple of Heaven, (to wit, the *Visible Church of God on Earth*, restored unto her primitive Purity, and made glorious, Isa. 60. 7, 12, 13, 14.) saying, It is DONE, chap. 10. 6, 7. viz.

The Mystery of God is finished, as he hath declared to his Servants the Prophets. This Voice is Christ's, chap. 21. 5, 6. He that sat upon the Throne, said unto me, It is DONE. This Voice is said to come from the Throne in the Temple of Heaven, in this 17. verse; that is to say, It came from Christ, who sat upon the Throne, chap. 21. 5, 6. and implies now Christ's Kingdom shall be set up, and he himself shall sit upon the Throne, chap. 3. 21. and all his Saints with him.

And

And there were Voices, and Thundrings, and Lightnings; and there was a great Earth-quake, &c. vers. 18.

The like to this was the effect of the *Wit-nesses* rising, chap. 11. 13. upon which Com-motions the tenth part of the City fell; so here by this great Earth-quake, *the great City is divided into three parts*, vers. 19. Fractions, or Divisions, note the utter ruine of the Roman-Antichristian-Politick-and-Ecclesiastick-State, Power, Domini-on, and Kingdom of the Beast; *For a King-dom divided against it self cannot stand.*

And the Cities of the Nations fell, verse 19. *litterally*, such Nations as come to help the Beast, and the Turk against the Lord and his People. *Mystically* by the Cities of the Nations, we may understand *National Churches*. The great Whore is called the great City; so the Harlots, *who are her Daughters*, chap. 17. 5. are here called the Cities of the Nations. If the Catholick Church of Rome be the great City, then the National *Romish* Churches, may also be called the Cities of the Nations; which shall fall in the Day of the Lords contro-versie with all Nations, Hag. 2. 22. and Jer. 25. 30, 31, 32, 33.

And great Babylon came in remembrance before God, vers. 19. By

By great *Babylon* here is *primarily* meant, *Constantinople*, the royal City of the great *Turk*.

And *Secondarily*, All his Principalities, Dominions, and Kingdom, prophesied of, *Isa.* 14. 4, 5, 24, 25, 32.

Neither am I alone in this my Opinion, for Mr. *Brightman* and others are of the same Judgement. And my Reasons are,

1. Because the great City, and great *Babylon* are *contradistinguished* one from the other in this 19 *verse*, and therefore cannot the same.

2. Because great *Babylon* is said here to come in *remembrance* before the LORD, which cannot literally be applied to the City of *Rome*; for that was the Seat of the Beast, upon which the fifth *Vial* was poured out; nor can it be *mystically* applied unto the whole Kingdom of the Beast, for that had come in remembrance before the Lord, in pouring out the former five *Vials*.

3. Because the Turk hath been, is, and will be as great an Enemy against the Jews (*especially in their return to their own Land*) as the Pope hath been, is, and will be against the Gentile Saints; And whereas both *Turk* and *Pope*, together with the *Kings* and *Nations* of the *Earth*, being now at last
all

all combined together, with all their *Forces* against the LORD and his *Saints*, both *Jews* and *Gentiles*, they shall all drink of the Wine of the fierceness of Gods wrath, which shall be poured out of this seventh *Vial* without mixture of Mercy; *chap. 19. 19, 20, 21.*

Every Island fled away, and the Mountains were not found, vers. 20.

By Islands and Mountains, here we may understand,

1. Places of hiding, and of security, *Ezek. 39. 6. Isa. 2. 19, 21. and Hag. 2. 6, 7, 22.* But there will be no security nor hiding, for every Island fled away, and the Mountains were not found, so that their *ruine* will be *inevitable* without any refuge or shelter.

2. By Islands we may understand such things as are separated from a common, unto some sacred use, as Islands are separated from the main Land by Waters that go round about them. Such are all Popish *Consecrated* and *Dedicated* things, viz. Bishopricks, Deanaries, Cathedrals, Churches, Chapples, Priors, Nunneries, Church Lands, and Revenues; all these, and all of these kinds shall be sequestred and taken away from their Sacred, or rather Superstitious

perstitutions and Idolatrous uses, and restored unto a common and civil use, as before any such Consecration, Dedication, Assignment, or Separation.

3. By Mountains, we may understand, the great Powers and Dominions of the Earth, the Monarchs and Monarchies of this WORLD, *Zech. 4. 7. Isa. 40. 4. Jer. 51. 25. These shall not be found; for they shall be broken and destroyed utterly, and they shall be made like the Chaff of the Summer Threshing-Floors, which the Wind carrieth away; Dan. 2. 35. And no place was found for them.*

And there fell upon men a great Hail out of Heaven, &c. Verse 21.

The *Hail* from *Heaven* signifies some more immediate Judgements and Plagues of God. Here may be some *Allusion* to the destruction of the Canaanites by great Hailstones from Heaven, *Josh. 10. 11.* Or else this is that great Storm of Gods immediate Judgements threatned Prophetically against Gog in the Land of Magog, *Ezek. 38. 2, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23. And I will plead against him with an overflowing rain, and great Hailstones, fire and brimstone, &c.*

And men blasphemed God, &c. Verse 21.

This is the Effect of Gods most just and
F righteous

righteous Judgements upon all his unpla-
cable Enemies, *they Blasphemed God*. This
was the Effect of the Plagues poured out
of the Fifth *Vial*, Verse 9, 11. which was
the Beasts former practice, Chap. 13. 6.
The Beast was a Blasphemer from the
Beginning, and so continues unto his
End ; He lives and dies in his Blas-
phemies against God, *and perisheth for
ever*.

Now as touching the *Time*, when these
Seven Vials shall be poured out, though I
have a very honorable esteem of those
Godly and Learned Expositors of this
Book of the *Revelation*, who are of opi-
nion, that three or four of these Seven
Vials are poured out already ; Yet not-
withstanding all that they have said, I con-
fess I am not of their mind, but do rather
think, *That none of those seven Vials are
yet poured out*.

The Scripture-Grounds that I have to
offer for my Opinion in this Point are
these, *Viz.* 1. Because, *the Temple of the
Tabernacle of the Testimony in Heaven is not
opened*, out of which Temple the seven
Angels come forth with their seven
golden Vials, Chap. 15. 5, 6, 7. Which
Temple I have proved before, to be the
Heaven.

Heavenly State of the Church of God on Earth, restored in some Measure unto its Apostolical Constitutions, and primitive Purity: which, when so, was called the Temple of the Living God, 2 Cor. 6. 16.

Let Christians consider, that *none* of the Seven Vials are to be poured out until the Temple be opened, *that is to say*, until the Church of God on Earth be restored in some measure unto its Apostolical Constitutions, and primitive Purity, which is not yet done, and therefore *no Vial is yet poured out.* 2. Because, *Christ's Sackcloth Witnesses and Warriors must be slain, and raised, and the Seventh Trumpet sounded, before the Temple be opened, or any of the Seven Vials be poured out, Chap. 11. 7, 11, 14, 15, 19.*

But these things are not yet done, and therefore none of the Seven Vials are yet poured out. Let Christians consider, Are the Witnesses slain, before their Testimony be finished? Verse 7. saith, *When they shall have finished their Testimony, the Beast, that ascendeth out of the Bottomless Pit, shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them: And if these Witnesses and Warriors be slain, Are they Risen and ascended up to Heaven? (that is, to*

an Heavenly State and Dignity) and have their Enemies been enlightened to behold them? as is prophesied they shall, Verse 11, 12. Again, Hath the Seventh Angel sounded his Seventh Trumpet? as is prophesied Verse 15. which Angel must Sound his Seventh Trumpet before this Wrath come, Verse 18. I offer these three Reasons to the serious Consideration of Christians, why the Seventh Angel hath not Sounded his Seventh Trumpet, *Viz.* 1. *The Mystery of God is not finished*, which must be done when the Seventh Angel begins to Sound his Trumpet, Chap. 10. 6, 7. 2. *The Second Wo is not Past* until the Witnesses and Warriors be raised and ascended, which must be done before the Seventh Angel Sound his Trumpet, Chap. 11. 11, 12, 14, 15. 3. Upon the Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet, The Kingdoms of this World do become the Kingdom of Christ and of his Anointed, Chap. 11. 15. But this is not accomplished, which argues that the Seventh Angel hath not Sounded his Seventh Trumpet, which Seventh Trumpet must usher in the *Seven Vials*, as the *Seventh Seal* did the *Seven Trumpets*, Chap. 8. 1, 2, 6. whereby it is manifest that the Temple is not opened,

ed, nor any of the Seven Vials poured out.

And Thirdly, Because, *Those Seven Vials contain the Seven last Plagues* (Chap. 15. 1. *for in them is filled up the Wrath of God*) which are Contemporary with the Victory, which the Saints shall get over the *Beast*, and over his *Image*, and over his *Mark*, and over the *Number* of his *Name*, Chap. 15. 1, 2, 3, 4. *Standing upon a Sea of Glass mingled with Fire*, and singing that Triumphant Song of the Lamb, Verses 3, 4. Which Victory the Saints have not yet Gotten, neither can they sing that Triumphant Song, and therefore none of the Seven *Vials* are yet poured out. Let Christians consider, 1. That the Seven last Plagues will utterly Ruin and Destroy Antichrist, Root and Branch, and that suddenly, Chap. 18. 2, 8, 10, 17, 19. 2. That the Seven last Plagues contain that last Judgement of the great Whore (called *Mystery Babylon*) which doth precede the Marriage of the Lamb, Chap. 17. 1. and 19. 1, 2, 3, 7. 3. That the Seven last Plagues are the effects of the last War of the *Beast* and False Prophet, and the Kings of the Earth against the Lamb, our LORD Jesus Christ, and his Armies in Heaven, *namely*, his Saints who are Called, and Chosen, and

Faithfull, Who having Overcome and gotten the Victory over these Enemies of God, of Christ, and of his People, They pour out those Vials of the last Plagues of God Almighty upon them, chap. 17. 13, 14. chap. 16. 14. chap. 19. 19, 20. and chap. 18. 6, 7, 8. All which Argues that the Seven Vials of Gods last Plagues are not yet poured out. 4. Because *the First Angel hath not yet poured forth his Vial*; And If the *First Angel* hath not poured forth his *Vial*, then the *Second*, *Third*, nor any of the *Seven Angels* have not poured forth any of their *Vials*. But that the *First Angel* hath not poured out his *Vial* [besides what hath been said for the proof of my Opinion, the Reasons and Scripture-Grounds given for the same in general] I do humbly offer these following Arguments to prove. *Viz.* - Though I Reverence those Godly and Learned Men, and Bless the Lord for their worthy Labours in the Expositions of the Book of the *Revelation*; Yet I cannot, (*for the Reasons before given*) consent with them, who affirm that *Waldo*, *Wickliff*, *Husse*, *Luther*, &c. are meant by the *First Angel*, that poured out the first *Vial*: nor can I be of their Opinion, who say by this *Angel* is meant, the Sweden Wars.

Wars, nor the Long Parliament; nor any other Persons or Plagues, which have befallen the Antichristian Roman Political and Ecclesiastical State unto this Time: Because I see not the Effects of this First *Vial* accomplished upon the Earthly, Carnal, and Worldly Interest of the grand Apostates of these Last Times. Which thing causeth me to continue in my *Opinion*, both in general touching all the Seven *Vials*, and in particular touching the First *Vial*, until I shall be convinced by Scripture-Light, and sound Reason grounded thereon; Viz. *That the First Angel hath not poured out his Vial.*

1. *Argument* for the proof thereof is from chap. 18. 21. *Thus with violence shall that great City Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.*

I have already declared, that the *Vials* of the Last Plagues do contain that last Judgement of the great Whore (called *Mystery Babylon*) mentioned Chap. 18. And all Expositors of this Prophecie of the *Revelation* do affirm the same: which being so, This Comparison chap. 18. 21. holds especially in these two things; viz.

First, as a great *Millstone* cast into the Sea doth not sometimes sink, and another

while swim; now falling down, and then rising again; Thus, *or so* When any of the Seven *Angels* pour out any of their *Vials* upon any part of the Roman Antichristian State of the Beast's Political and Ecclesiastical Kingdom, that *Part* upon which the *Vial* is poured forth shall fall, perish, and rise no more; *no nor be found no more at all*, chap. 18. 11, 14, 21.

Secondly, As a great *Milstone* cast into the *Sea* falls and sinks down irrecoverably unto the *Bottom*; Thus, *or so* when the First Angel hath poured out his *Vial* upon the *Earth*, the *Second* upon the *Sea*, the *Third* upon the *Rivers*, the *Fourth* upon the *Sun*, and the *Fift* upon the *Seat* of the Beasts Kingdom, *Babylon* (like a *Milstone*) sinks to the *Bottom*; *that is to say*, The utter destruction of the Great Whore *Mystery Babylon* is suddenly effected by the pouring out of the *Vials* of the Last *Plagues* of the fierceness of the *Wrath* of God upon her, chap. 18. 8, 10, 17, 19. *for in one Hour she is made desolate*. But we see not such *Effects* of any *Plagues* of God yet upon *Babylon*, and therefore conclude, that the Seven Last *Plagues* or *Vials* are not any of them poured forth, no not the *First* of them.

2. *Argument*, that proves the *First Vial* is not yet poured out is, *Because* That noisom and grievous Sore (*which is the Effect of the First Vial*) is not yet fallen upon the *Men*, which had the *Mark of the Beast*, and upon them that did worship his *Image*, chap. 16.2. For,

1. That noisom Sore will cause both all the *Lovers and Friends of Babylon* for ever to stand aloof, yea, afar off from her, and from them that the Sore is on, *to wit*, Popes, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Jesuits, Fryars, Monks, &c. And upon them that worshipped his Image ; namely, all the Papists, Crucifix-adores, Image-worshipers, Cross-creepers, Altar-bowers, &c. chap. 18. 10, 15, 17.

2. That grievous Sore will cause such exquisite Torment, and pain unto the *Men* that had the *Mark of the Beast*, and upon them which worshipped his Image, That the Smoke of their Torment ascendeth up for ever and ever, chap. 14. 9, 10, 11. and when the *Kings of the Earth*, the *Merchants of the Earth*, and the *Ship-masters, Saylers*, and all the *Company of Ships*, and as many as *Trade by Sea*, shall see the *Smoke of her Burning*, and the *Torment of her Worshipers*, they will stand

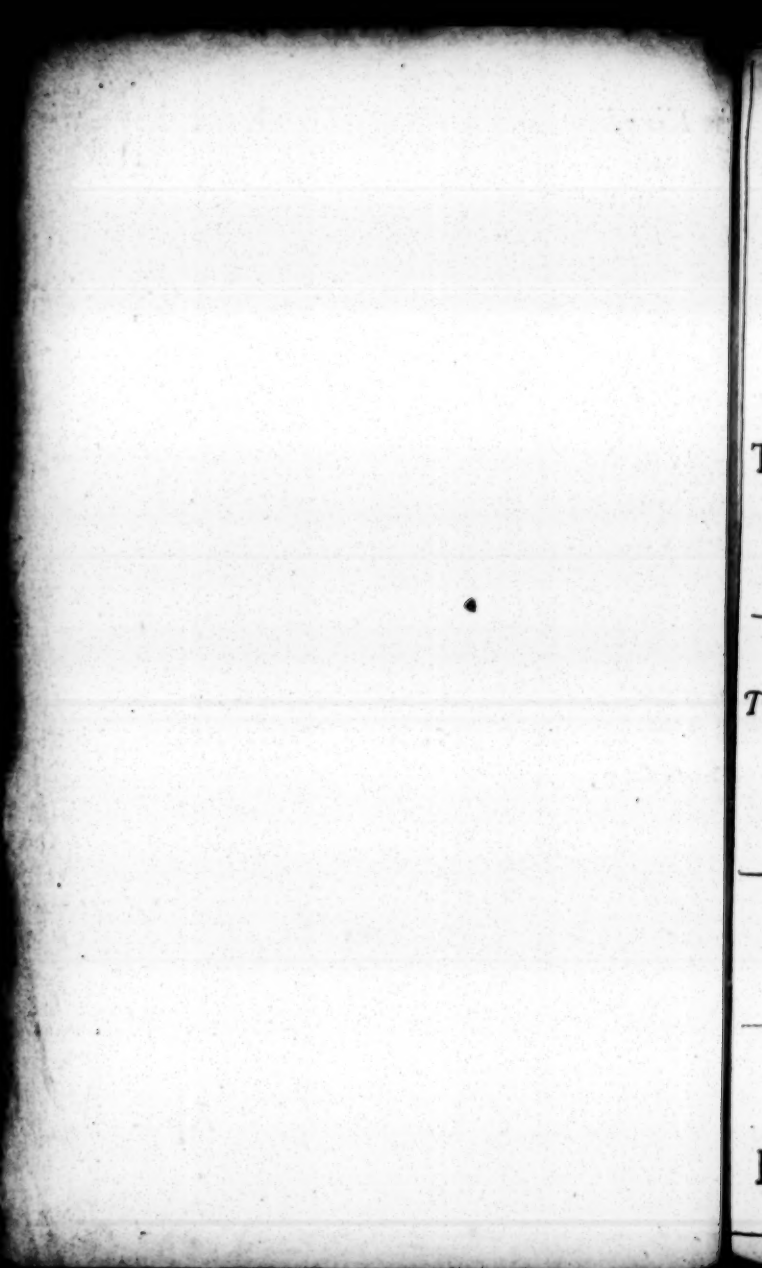
Stand afar off and Cry, Alas, alas! for in
One Hour she is made Desolate, chap. 18.
18, 19.

But there is no such noisom and grievous
Sore fallen upon the Men, that had the
Mark of the Beast, nor upon them that
Worshipped his Image: The Popes, Car-
dinals, Prelates, Priests, &c. nor the
Papists, who worship Images, Crucifixes,
Crosses, Altars, &c. have not been so tor-
mented by any plagues of God, that the
Smoke of their Torment hath Ascended for
ever and ever; Nor have the Kings of the
Earth, the Merchants of the Earth, nor they
that Trade by Sea so seen the smoke of her
Burning, as to stand afar off for fear of her
Torment, Concluding and Confessing that
in one hour she is made Desolate; Read
ch. 18. 9, 10, 15, 17, 18, 19. And therefore
I again conclude, (being the more confirm-
ed in my Opinion, by these Arguments)
*That the First Angel hath not yet poured out
his Vial:* And if the First Vial be not yet
poured out, then *none* of the Seven Vials
of the *Last Plagues* are as yet poured out.

And until these Seven Vials of the Last
Plagues of God be all poured out, The
Kingdom of the Antichrist will not be
totally and finally Destroyed; nor will all

in the *Kingdoms* of this **WORLD** become the
 8. *Kingdom* of the **LORD**, and of his **Saints** :
 us Tho gh there will be some considerable
 he *Beginnings* of the *Destruction* of the *King-*
 nat *dom* of *Antichrist*, and of the *Establiſhing*
 ar- of the *Kingdom* of our **L O R D** **Jesus**
 he *Christ* before the laſt *Vial* be poured out.

Touching which *Two Kingdoms*, viz. of
 es, *Antichrist*, and of *Christ*, I have some-
 r- thing to offer in the *Third Part* of this lit-
 he *treatiſe*, which I judge meet for the
 for *Saints* in this **GENERATION** to know :
 he Into the right underſtanding whereof, the
 ey **LORD** guide my heart and yours by his
 et Holy Spirit and Word to his Glory, that
 et we may know what we ought to do in this
 rat **DAY** of our **GENERATION**. Amen,
 ad and Amen.



Apocalyptical MYSTERIES.

The Third Part.

Touching the *Kingdome* of *Antichrist*,
and the KINGDOME of
CHRIST.

Rev. II. 15.

*The Kingdoms of this WORLD are become
the KINGDOM of our LORD and of his
CHRIST, and HE shall REIGN for ever
and ever.*



L O N D O N,
Printed in the Year, 1667.

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Apocalyphtical MYSTERIES.

The Third Part.

Touching the *Kingdome of Antichrist*,
and the KINGDOME of
CHRIST.

Rev. 11. 15.

*The Kingdoms of this WORLD are become
the KINGDOM of our LORD and of
his CHRIST, and he shall REIGN for
ever and ever.*

THE *Seventh* Angel mentioned in this
verse is the *Angel* of the third WOE,
denounced against the Inhabiters of
the EARTH, chap. 8. 13. 9, 12. and 11.
4. which third WOE containeth all those
righteous

righteous Judgments of God that are to be executed upon *Mystical* BABYLON by pouring out of the *Seven* VIALS of the *Last* PLAGUES of *Almighty* God upon the KINGDOM of the BEAST, Whereupon the Kingdoms of this WORLD become the KINGDOM of CHRIST and of his SAINTS *for ever and ever*.

By the Kingdoms of this WORLD, we may understand, 1. *Universally*, All the Kingdoms of the World, that are upon the face of the Earth: 2 *Kings* 19. 15. *Jer.* 25. 26. *to wit*, All Rule, Dominion, Power, and Government in all Nations, and Kingdoms of the WORLD. 2. *Generally*, All the Kingdoms of the DOMINION of *Nebuchadnezzar* King of *BABYLON*, *Jer* 34. 1. and *Dan.* 2. 37, 38. also of *Cyrus* King of *Persia*, *Ezra* 1. 2. and *Dan.* 2. 39. likewise of *Alexander* the Great, King of *Grecia*, *Dan.* 8. 8, 9, 10, 21, 22. and *Dan.* 11. 3. and 2. 39. and lastly of the *Cesars*, the Kings of the *Romans*, which is the *fourth* Kingdom of *Monarchy* of this WORLD, *Dan.* 2. 40, 41, 42. *Dan.* 7. 23, 24, 25. 3. *Specially*, All the Nations, Languages, Kingdoms and People that are under the DOMINION, Rule, Power, Government and King

Kingdom of ANTICHRIST, the Man of SIN, and Son of PERDITION, *2 Thess.* 2. 3, 4. *to wit*, the BEAST of the EIGHT Head, with two HORNS, Who ascended out of the Bottomless PIT, and shall go into PERDITION, chap. 17. 8, 11. together with All the *Dominions*, Rule, Authority, Power, and Government of all the *ten* Kings, who received their *Power* one hour (*that is, at the same Time*) with the BEAST, and have given their Power and Strength unto the BEAST, chap. 17. 12, 13. *These are the Kingdoms of this WORLD; which shall become the KINGDOM of our LORD, and of his CHRIST.*

That which doth Concern the *Saints* in this GENERATION to know, touching the Kingdoms of this WORLD, is,
 1. *How they became the Kingdoms of ANTICHRIST; and* 2. *How they shall become the Kingdom of CHRIST.*

To that End, let the *Saints* Consider,
 First, The Kingdoms of this WORLD, *to wit*, the *Assyrio-Chaldean* Monarchy, the *Medio-Persian* Monarchy, the *Grecian*-Monarchy, and the *Roman*-Monarchy had their *Dominions* and Kingdoms given them by the God of Heaven, *Jer.* 34. 1. *Dan.* 2. 37, 38, 39, 40. *Ezra* 1. 2. Who
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have by the Succession of *Divine Providence* had and exercised their Dominion, Power, and Authority over all Nations, People, and Languages under their Government ; *Under whose Yoke and Dominion God for the sins of his people Israel put them also and their Kings, Deut. 28. 15, 25. Jer. 27. 6, 7, 8, 11, 12. Ezek. 17. 12, 13, 14. Dan. 2. 37, 38, 39, 40. Ezra 1. 2. Rom. 13. 1—7.*

Secondly, The *Fourth Kingdom or Monarchy*, which is the *Roman-Monarchy*, or *Kingdom of the Casars* in the dayes of our Saviour and his Apostles, was God's **ORDINANCE** of *Magistracy*, and those *higher POWERS* unto which all the *Saints*, and every *Soul* who lived under the *Roman Government*, ought to be *Subject* for Conscience sake, *Rom. 13. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.*

The Apostle *Paul* would not have exhorted *Titus* to put the *Saints* in mind to obey *Magistrates*, (as he did, *Tit. 3. 1.*) if there had been no *Magistrates* then in *Being* : or if they had been *Usurpers*, and not God's *Ordinance*.

Why did the Apostle *Peter*, writing to the *Saints* (scattered through *Pontus, Galatia, Capadocia, Asia, and Bythinia*) exhort

hort them, 1 Pet. 2. 13, 14. *To submit themselves unto every Ordinance of Man for the Lords sake, whether it be to the King as Supream, or unto Governours, as unto them that are sent by him, &c.* verse 15. *for so is the will of God, &c.* if the Cæsars, Kings, and Governours then in Being, were not *Lawfull Powers*, had no *lawfull Authority*, nor were the **ORDINANCE** of God, as well as *they were* the *Ordinance of Man*?

Let it be also well and seriously Considered, *first*, That Christ and his Disciples called the *then* Roman Powers, *Magistrates*, Luke 12. 11, 58. and Acts 16. 19, 20, 21, 22. *Secondly*, That the Apostle exhorted the *Saints* to pray for *Kings* (*in their Church-Assemblies*) and for all that then were in *Authority*, 1 Tim. 2. 1, 2. *Thirdly*, That our Saviour and his *Apostles* did submit *themselves* unto the *Roman-Cæsars*, Kings, and Governours then in Power, paid them *Tribute* or *Custom*, Matth. 17. 24, 25, 26. and commanded the *Saints* so to do, and to continue in so doing, Rom. 13. 5, 6, 7.

Thirdly, The *Roman-Power*, and *Political-Government* of the Cæsars, Kings, and Governours of the fourth Monarchy.

or *Kingdoms* of this **WORLD**; became *Antichristian*, and the Kingdom of *Antichrist*, when the Beast received his Power, his Seat and great Authority from the Dragon, *Rev.* 13. 2. that old Serpent, *which is the Devil*, chap. 20. 2. and exercised that Power, both *Tyrannically* over the Estates and Persons of Men, and *Coercively* over the Consciences of Men and Women, Causing all both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond to subject themselves unto the *Beast* and his *Image*, and to receive his *Mark*, *Name*, and *Number*, and to Worship the Beast, or else they must neither buy nor sell, but be Killed, *Rev.* 13. 16, 17.

This **POWER** of Antichrist, *which the Devil gave him*, was signified unto John by a **BEAST** with *two HORNS* like a Lamb, *Rev.* 13. 11. *Horns* do signifie *Power* and *Authority* in the *Prophecies* of Scripture, *Zech.* 1. 18, 19, 20, 21. *Hab.* 3. 4. and *Dan.* 8. 20, 24, 25. and *two Horns*, imply a *twofold* Power and Authority, to wit, *Political* and *Ecclesiastical*; these *two Horns* are said to be like the Lamb, because the *Beast* pretends to have both his *Political*, and *Ecclesiastical* **POWER** and great *Authority* from Christ, and to exercise both
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for Christ; whereas indeed *HE* had his Throne, his Power and great Authority from the *Dragon, the Devil and Sathan*, chap. 23. 2. and doth exercise it against Christ and his Saints, chap. 11. 7. and 13. 15, 16, 17.

This *Politick and Ecclesiastick POWER* is the same *POWER*, that the *ten Kings* of the *Roman-Kingdom* received also *ONE HOUR* with the *Beast*, that is to say, at the same Time, when the *Beast* received his Antichristian *POWER* from the *DRA-GON*, chap. 17. 12. Which mixt Political and Ecclesiastical Power the *ten Kings or Kingdoms* do exercise for the *BEAST* against *CHRIST* and his Saints, chap. 17. 13, 14. and chap. 19. 19, 20, 21. unto their own Destruction.

Now as soon as this *Antichristian Beast* with his *ten Horns* was risen out of the *SEA*, to wit, the troubles, tumults, confusions, and divisions of the *Roman-Empire*, when by the *WARS* of the *Barbarians* the *Roman-Empire* was dissipated into *ten Kingdoms*; At which Time also this same *Beast* with his two Horns, is said to Rise out of the *EARTH*, that is to say, out of the *Apostacy* of an earthly-minded *CLERGY*; who departed from the

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FAITH,

FAITH, as was afore Prophefied, 1 *Tim.* 4. 1, 2, 3. should come to pass in the *latter Dayes*. I say, *from that Time*, the *Roman-Monarchy*, and *Political Government* of the fourth Kingdom ceased (though not to be a Kingdom, and to have a Power, a Throne, and great Authority, yet) to be a *lawfull POWER*, and an *ORDINANCE* of God : And therefore ought not to be obeyed, nor submitted unto by any of the Saints of God, neither in any *Civil or Ecclesiastical Commands* ; for that is to *WORSHIP* the *BEAST*, or his *IMAGE*.

Let the Saints consider, 1. That those, who shall Reign with Christ, have not *WORSHIPPED* the *Beast*, chap. 20. 4. 2. As it was dangerous to *WORSHIP* the *Beast* a little after his Rise, chap. 8. 7, 13. so it will be damnable to *WORSHIP* the *Beast* a little before his fall, chap. 14. 8-12. 3. Those that shall stand with the Lamb upon *Mount Sion*, with his *Fathers Name* in their Fore-heads, and learn to Sing that *New SONG* before the *Throne*, chap. 14. 1, 3. are such *Saints* as have gotten the *Victory* over the *Beast*, and over his *Image*, &c. chap. 15. 2, 3.

So then I conclude from what hath been
said

said, upon Scripture-Grounds, touching the Kingdoms of *This WORLD* becoming the Kingdom of *ANTICHRIST*,

That the Saints in this GENERATION ought not to Obey, nor to submit themselves unto the Roman-Antichristian-Politick and Ecclesiastick-POWER, Rule, Authority, Dominion, and Government of the BEAST, nor of the ten Kings or Kingdoms, who have given their POWER and Strength unto the Beast.

The second thing which I judge necessary for the Saints in this *GENERATION* to know, is, How the Kingdoms of this *WORLD* shall become the *KINGDOM* of *CHRIST*.

God shewed unto his Prophet Daniel in his *VISIONS* of the Night, how the Kingdoms of the *WORLD* should become the *KINGDOM* of Christ, Dan. 2. 34, 35, 44, 45. Dan. 7. 13, 14, 18, 22, 26, 27. *Viz.*

First, The Kingdoms of the *WORLD* shall be broken in pieces by a *STONE* cut out of the *MOUNTAIN* without hands, Dan. 2. 34, 35, Which *STONE* is Christ, Plal. 118. 22. Matth: 21. 42. and 1 Pet. 2. 4, 6. and also the Churches of Saints, his Jerusalem, called a Burthensome Stone, Zech. 12. 3.

The Kingdoms of this *WORLD* shall be broken in pieces; *first*, by falling upon the *Stone*, viz. Christ and his People, *Luke* 20. 17, 18. *Whosoever shall fall upon that STONE shall be broken*, *Zech.* 12. 3. *In that DAY I will make Jerusalem a burthensom STONE*; All that burthen themselves with it shall be cut in pieces. *Secondly*, The Kingdoms of this *WORLD* shall be broken in pieces by the *STONE*, to wit, Christ and his Peoples falling upon them, *Matth.* 21. 44. *But on whomsoever this STONE shall fall, it will grinde them to Powder*: and *Jer.* 51, 19, 20—24. *Thou art my Battle-AXE, and Weapons of WAR*; for with thee will I break in pieces the Nations, and with thee will I destroy Kingdoms.

The *Mystery* of the *STONE* smiting the *Fourth Kingdom* upon his *FEET* of Iron and Clay, and breaking them in Pieces, was expounded unto the Prophet, *Dan.* 7. 17, 18. *But the Saints of the Most High shall take the KINGDOM, and possess the Kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever*, *Dan.* 7. 24, 25, 26. *But the Judgement shall sit, and they shall take away his Dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the End*: read *Isa.* 60. 12.

Secondly, The Kingdoms of this *WORLD*, being broken in pieces by the *STONE* falling

ling upon them, The *STONE* will become a great *MOUNTAIN*, and fill the Whole *EARTH*, *Dan.* 2. 35. that is to say, Christ and his Saints shall have the *DOMINION* in all the *EARTH*, *Dan.* 7. 11, 12, 13, 14. And I beheld till the *BEAST* was slain, and his *BODY* destroyed, &c. As concerning the *REST* of the Beasts, they had their *DOMINION* taken away, &c. Behold *ONE* like the *SON* of *Man*, &c. And there was given him *DOMINION* and *Glory*, and a *KINGDOM*, that all *People*, *Nations*, and *Languages* should serve him, &c. Also *Dan.* 7. 26, 27. But the *Judgement* shall sit, and they shall take away his *DOMINION*, &c. And the *KINGDOM* and *Dominion*, and the greatness of the *Kingdom* under the whole *Heaven*, shall be given to the *People* of the *Saints* of the *Most High*, &c.

As the *WAY* for the *KINGDOM* of Christ and his Saints to be set up, is made by the *Breaking* in pieces the *Kingdoms* of this *WORLD*, *Isa.* 60. 12. For the *Nation* and *Kingdom* that will not serve thee shall perish, yea, those *Nations* shall be utterly wasted: So the *Kingdom* of Christ and his Saints shall be enlarged and established:
 1. By the *Conversion* of *Sinners*, both *Jews* and *Gentiles* unto Christ, *Isa.* 60. 3, 5, 8,
 10,

10, 11, 14, 15. and *Isa.* 66. 8. and *Rom.* 11. 25, 26, 27. 2. By the Pouring out the SPIRIT upon all Flesh, *Joel* 2. 28. *Isa.* 44. 3, 4, 5. 3. By the UNION of all the Saints, *Zeph.* 3. 9. and *Zech.* 14. 9. The LORD shall be KING over all the EARTH, in that DAY there shall be ONE Lord, and his Name ONE. And 4. By the RESTITUTION of all things, *Acts* 3. 20, 21. and *Isa.* 1. 26. I will Restore thy Judges as at the first, *Isa.* 60. 17. and *Isa.* 49. 6. It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my Servant to raise up the Tribes of Jacob, and to RESTORE the preserved of Israel, &c. And then the Whole CREATION shall be delivered from the BONDAGE of Corruption, and Restored into the Glorious LIBERTY of the Children of God, *Rom.* 8. 19, 21, 23.

That which the Saints of God in this GENERATION are to know, touching the KINGDOM of Christ, are these things following, *Viz.*

1. That the KINGDOM of our LORD Jesus is not of this WORLD, *Joh.* 18. 36. Nor is it of a *Worldly* Constitution; but it is a spiritual and *heavenly* Kingdom, *2 Tim.* 4. 18. and will be a *glorious* State, *Isa.* 60. 1, 2, 15, 19, 21, 22. of a NEW
Heaven,

Heaven, and of a NEW Earth, wherein dwells Righteousness, 2 Pet. 3. 13. which is the State of the Holy City, the NEW Jerusalem, that cometh down from God out of Heaven, Rev. 21. 1, 2. Then shall they call Jerusalem the THRONE of the LORD, Jer. 3. 13, 17. which NEW Jerusalem God will make a PRAISE in the EARTH, Isa. 62. 2, 3, 7. An eternal-Excellency, and the joy of many Generations, Isa. 60. 14, 15.

2. This KINGDOM of Christ is the THRONE of his Father David, Isa. 9. 7. and Luke 1. 32, 33. which Throne Solomon his Son (who was a Type of Christ) sat upon, when he reigned over all the Kingdoms that God gave to him, 1 Kings 4. 21. Upon whose THRONE our LORD Jesus Christ shall sit, and Reign over all the Kingdoms of the WORLD, who is the onely POTENTATE, the KING of Kings, and LORD of Lords, 1 Tim. 6. 14. who shall be KING of all the EARTH, Zech. 9. 14. with whom the Saints shall Reign on EARTH, and shall Rule and Govern the Nations, (not by the Laws of Men, but) by the Laws of God; which are true Laws, right Judgements, and good Statutes, Nehemiah 10. 13, 14. For Christ our LORD,
and

and *Judah* his People is our *Law-Giver*, Isa. 33. 22. and Psal. 101. 8. *The Kingdom shall come to the Daughter of Jerusalem, and the first DOMINION to the Daughter of Sion.* Mich. 4. 7, 8. *And out of Sion shall go forth the Law,* Mich. 4. 1, 2, 3—7.

Thirdly, This KINGDOM of our LORD will begin before the Kingdoms of this WORLD End, Dan. 2. 44. *In the Days of these Kings* (to wit, the ten Kings of the Fourth Monarchy and Kingdom of the Beast) *shall the God of Heaven set up a KINGDOM*; which is the Kingdom of Christ, Dan. 7. 13, 14. Then will our LORD Jesus Christ take unto him his great POWER and Reign, Rev. 11. 15, 17, 18. At which the Nations will be angry, and the Heathen will Rage, The Kings of the EARTH will set themselves, and the Rulers of this WORLD will take Counsel together against the LORD, and against his Christ; Yet God will set his KING upon his Holy HILL of Sion, and will give him the Heathen for his Inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the EARTH for his Possession. Psal. 2. 1---8. *And the LORD shall REIGN over them in MOUNT-Sion, from henceforth even for ever,* Mich. 4. 7, 8.

Fourthly, Though the KINGDOM of
Christ

Christ shall begin before the Kingdoms of this WORLD End; And though all the Kingdoms of this WORLD shall become the KINGDOM of our LORD Jesus Christ; Yet the great Glory and Perfection of Christs Kingdom shall be in the WORLD to COME. Then shall ALL things be put in SUBJECTION under the Feet of Christ, Hebr. 2. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Which *World* to COME is contradistinguished from the WORLD *that NOW IS*, *Mat. 12. 32.* Called *this WORLD*, in distinction from *that WORLD*, *Luke 20. 34, 35, 36.* The Apostle also speaketh of the DOMINION of *this WORLD*, *Eph. 1. 21.* and of the POWER of the WORLD to COME.

The WORLD to COME is not that *eternal State of God's Kingdom of GLORY in Heaven*; but it is the *glorious and spiritual State of the KINGDOM of Christ on EARTH*, *Heb. 2. 5.* That *same WORLD*, *even THAT, that is to COME*; to wit, The inhabited WORLD to Come, wherein the PEOPLE of God shall build Houses, and inhabit them, according to Gods Promise, *in that day*, when he will Create New Heavens, and a new Earth, *Isa. 65. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25.* and *Amos 19. 11, 14.* And shall
build

build up the Tabernacle of David, &c.

Fifthly, The Dominion and Government of the KINGDOM of Christ on EARTH shall be given to the Saints, *Dan. 7. 27.* and be Managed by them according to the Laws of Christ; and to that End the Saints, (*who shall Reign with Christ on Earth*) shall be rarely Qualified, and fitted for that Kingdom, Work, and Kingly Government: for, 1. They shall be all Righteous, *Isa. 60. 21.* They shall do no Iniquity, *Zeph. 3. 13.* They shall be without Fault before the THRONE of God, *Rev. 14. 5.* 2. The Saints shall be SPIRITED for Government, *Isa. 28. 5, 6.* Constituted Governors, *Rev. 5. 9, 10.* and strengthened for Governing, *Zech. 12. 5, 8.* and *Isa. 45. 24, 25.* 3dly, and Lastly, The Saints shall be cloathed with Humility, so that they shall Cast down their Crowns at the Feet of Christ, their KING, *Rev. 4. 10, 11.* Exalting HIM alone, *ch. 5. 9, 10.* And they shall be Endued with Courage, Clad with Zeal, and Girded with Strength and Truth, that they may binde Kings in Chains, and Nobles in Fetters of IRON, and Execute upon them the JUDGMENT written, *Luke 19. 27.* This HONOUR have all his SAINTS, *Psal. 149. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9.* which

was

was Prophefied of Jer. 51. 19--24. Thou art my Battle-Axe and Weapon of WAR, for with thee will I break in pieces the Nations, and with thee will I destroy Kingdoms, and with thee will I break in pieces Captains and RULERS, &c. Also Zech. 12. 5, 6. In that DAY will I make the GOVERNORS of Judah like a Hearth of Fire among the Wood, and like a Torch of Fire in a Sheaf, and they shall devour all the PEOPLE (the Enemies of Christ) round about.

Sixthly, The Gospel of this KINGDOM of Christ shall be preached in all the WORLD for a WITNESS to all NATIONS, Mat. 24. 14. And therefore the Kingdom of Christ cannot be set up in any Nation until the GOSPEL of the Kingdom be first preached in that Nation; And then that NATION, Kingdom, or PEOPLE, which do believe the GOSPEL of the Kingdom preached unto them, and are made WILLING (in the DAY of God's POWER, Psal. 110. 3.) to Admit the Saints to RULE and GOVERN that Nation according to the LAWS of our LORD and KING Jesus, shall become the Kingdom of Christ: But that Nation, Kingdom and People, which will not receive the TESTIMONY of the Kingdom of Christ, but re-
ject

ject the *WITNESSES* of the Gospel, and Kill the *WITNESSES* of Christ, shall be utterly Wasted, and Destroyed, *Isa.* 60. 12. And our *LORD* Jesus Christ will put down all *RULE*, all *AUTHORITY*, and all *POWER*, that are his *Enemies*, and will not Submit unto his *DOMINION*, *1 Cor.* 15. 24, 25. and *Luke* 19. 27.

Seventhly, *WHEN* this *Kingdom* of our *LORD* is Established on *EARTH*, with *POWER* and great *GLORY*, and all the *Kingdoms* of this *WORLD* are become the *KINGDOM* of Christ; The *Thousand Years* of the Reign of Christ and his Saints being Expired and Ended, Then Will Christ come again, and all the Saints with *HIM*, *Zeph.* 14. 5. and *1 Thes.* 4. 15, 16, 17, 18. then will be the *General RESURRECTION*, and the *Last JUDGMENT*, *1 Cor.* 15. 22, 23. and *Rev.* 20. 4, 12, 13, 14. Which being past, Christ shall deliver up the Kingdom unto God the Father, that *GOD* may be *ALL* in *ALL*, *1 Cor.* 15. 24, 25, 28.

FINIS.

